

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE KIMBERTON FIRE COMPANY ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kimberton Fire Company of Kimberton, Pennsylvania on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary.

The Kimberton Fire Company began back in 1929 when a group of community leaders came together to discuss the need for a local fire company to protect the community and its vicinity from the inherent danger of fire. On February 5, 1929, the first officers were elected by the newly formed membership. At that time, they also voted to purchase one 1917 Brockway Combination Chemical and Hose Car for \$300. These steps led to the Kimberton Fire Company's official incorporation three months later in May of 1929.

In May 1936, right after the Company purchased their first new fire apparatus, the Hale Pumper, fire broke out in the Kimberton firehouse. While the firehouse was completely destroyed, firefighters were able to save the pumper and were able to utilize their new equipment to extinguish the fire.

Today, the Kimberton Fire Company has a fleet of twelve emergency vehicles. This fleet has the capability to meet the needs of the Kimberton community that is comprised of six municipalities and covers over 32 square miles. The area protected by the Kimberton Fire Company ranges from the farmland to small towns and suburban developments.

Not only does the Kimberton Fire Company provide outstanding rescue and fire services, they also provide exemplary community service. The members of the Kimberton Fire Company serve as members of the Tanker Task Force and the State Forest Fire Crew. The Kimberton Fire Company is also the area's Emergency Operations Center and an evacuation center. Meeting space is provided at the firehouse for the Boy Scouts and for other groups such as Exploring and Venture group. The firehouse also opens its doors and hosts fundraisers and other community events. The Kimberton Fire Company believes strongly in investing in the youth of the community because they believe that today's youth will provide for a more improved community in the future. The Kimberton Fire Company is well-known for its fire and rescue teams, and also for being actively responsive to the unique needs of the Kimberton community. Lifelong friendships and solid community partnerships have been made and the Kimberton Fire Company is prominent in establishing and maintaining these local bonds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today is congratulating the Kimberton Fire Company for its dedication and service to the Kimberton area community. It is an honor to recognize the Kimberton Fire Company for its 75 years of tremendous service to the people.

CONGRATULATING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2004 HENRY B. GONZALEZ AWARDS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hispanic citizens from the 9th District of Texas being honored September 25, 2004 for their work in the community. While the dedication of Hispanic leaders is well-known throughout the United States, local citizens, right here in the Southeast Gulf Coast region, are just as important to ensuring equal rights and economic progress for all Texans.

Each year, I ask members of the communities in the 9th District to nominate individuals for the Henry B. Gonzalez Latino Leadership Award. This award, named in honor of the late Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez, gives special recognition to those who have worked selflessly, often without recognition, and made contributions both in the Hispanic community and the broader community as well. Recipients were chosen because their spirit of giving and sharing spirit makes a substantial contribution to our community and inspires others to do the same.

While their efforts may not make the headlines every day, the recipients' service and dedication to our country is nevertheless vital to our entire region. Southeast Texas is not successful in spite of our diversity, but rather successful because of it.

Please join me in recognizing and congratulating these leaders for their work an commitment to their communities and to southeast Texas. It is leaders like these men and women that continue to be a source of pride for Texas. The winners of this years Henry B. Gonzalez Latino Leadership Award are: Mrs. Sabrina Vrooman, Mr. Joe Hernandez, Mr. Albert Seguin, Mr. Manuel Escontrias, Mr. Hipolito Acosta, Mr. Carlos Lopez, and Mrs. Maria Barrios de Estrello.

Mr. Speaker, the recipients of the Henry B. Gonzalez Award are dedicated and hard-working individuals who have done so much for their neighbors and for this Nation as a whole. Today, I stand to recognize their spirit and to say that I am honored to be their Representative.

HONORING JOHN W. ROWE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to John W. Rowe of Chicago on being honored by the American Jewish Committee for his continued civic leadership in our city.

For almost 100 years the American Jewish Committee has maintained its mission of pro-

moting a world in which all are accorded the same civic treatment, promoting minority protection in democratic societies, and fighting against anti-Semitism.

Chairman and CEO of the Exelon Corporation, John W. Rowe is a person of great leadership who shares this same mission. By establishing the Exelon Corporation as one of Chicago's premier philanthropic and civically mindful corporations, he has consistently displayed excellent leadership and humanitarianism.

Mr. Rowe is chairman and CEO of the Exelon Corporation which was formed October 2000 by way of a corporate merging of the Unicorn Corporation and PECO Energy. Exelon, with some 5 million customers and annual revenues more than \$15 billion, is one of the Nation's largest electric utilities.

Mr. Rowe also has a history of exemplifying great leadership through his previous work as chairman president, and CEO of the Unicom Corporation and Commonwealth Edison, as well as president and CEO of NEES, and president and CEO of Central Maine Power Company.

The past recognition Mr. Rowe has received is a testimony to his continued commitment to human rights. In 2002, Mr. Rowe was honored as the Citizen of the Year by the City Club of Chicago for his active responses to important environmental issues. In 2003, Mr. Rowe was awarded El Valor Corporation's Corporate Visionary Award, which honors corporate leaders for their vision and resolution for providing opportunities to all people. In May 2002, he was honored with the Corporate Leadership Award from the Spanish Coalition for Jobs for his outstanding civic commitment and contributions to the Latino community. In 2000, he was also the recipient of the Anti-Defamation League's "A World of Difference" award for his commitment to the promotion of civil rights through fighting discrimination, prejudice, and bigotry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend John W. Rowe for his great leadership in our community and congratulate him on his well deserved Civic Leadership Award.

HONORING BARBARA VOLPE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the distinguished service of Ms. Barbara Volpe, President of the Public Education & Business Coalition (PEBC) in Denver, Colorado.

Ms. Volpe has been working with the PEBC for 15 years. Under her leadership the organization has tripled its size and developed an outstanding national reputation. With Ms. Volpe's steady guidance the PEBC has successfully completed a merger between two

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

non-profits, assembled a high-caliber, professional staff, and created extraordinary initiatives such as the Boettcher Teachers Program.

Sadly, Ms. Volpe has decided that the time has come for her to leave the PEBC. Her dedication and commitment to her community serve as an inspiration to others in the field.

I ask my colleagues today to join me in thanking Ms. Barbara Volpe for her outstanding leadership and service. She certainly deserves our utmost appreciation. Her presence at PEBC will surely be missed.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS RYAN MARTIN

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a committed soldier and citizen from the 16th District of Ohio who died protecting our Nation. Private First Class Ryan Martin died when a bomb exploded while he was on a mine clearing mission with the 216th Engineering Battalion of the Ohio National Guard.

A graduate of Mount Vernon High School and of the carpentry program at the Knox County Career Center in Mount Vernon, Ohio, Pfc. Martin enjoyed fishing and working on cars and had a tremendous sense of humor. After his tour, he planned to either operate heavy equipment or help his father on the family farm.

Pfc. Ryan acted as vital part of his unit in Iraq, often volunteering for dangerous missions. His bravery and service were an inspiration to his fellow soldiers and to us all. Ryan embodied all that is great about our Nation. Without young men and women like him, our Nation would fall.

I send my most heartfelt prayers and sympathies to his family and friends. I pray for the homecoming of all of our service men and women and remember them as they continue to defend our freedom at home and abroad.

IN HONOR OF PVT RYAN MICHAEL
MCCAULEY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pvt Ryan Michael McCauley, who was killed while defending our Nation on September 5, 2004 in Sadr City, Iraq.

For the past year, Private McCauley has rendered faithful, conscientious, and valuable services to the U.S. Army and to the United States of America. Private McCauley will be remembered for his commendable service and dedication to this great Nation.

Private McCauley was a native of Lewisville, TX and a recent graduate of Lewisville High School. At Lewisville High the future soldier was an amiable and trustworthy student, who left behind many close friends. On September 11, family, friends, students, and school administration attended a ceremony at the school in tribute to their former classmate and fallen soldier.

Private McCauley joined the Army after graduating in 2002 where he faithfully served our Nation in the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of this young American hero.

HONORING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
OF CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Habitat for Humanity of Chester County, Pennsylvania's 15th Anniversary. For fifteen years, they have provided basic, well-built, affordable housing for low-income families and for those in need. Habitat for Humanity has made countless contributions to our community and, for that, they should be commended.

Habitat for Humanity is an organization that not only builds homes, but it also builds hope for those less fortunate. In turn, it gives those people in need a sense of dignity and of independence. This program is known for developing partnerships within the community and for its involvement in the promotion of Christian values. This great organization is led and sustained by volunteers of all faiths and it prides itself on serving all low-income families regardless of race, religion, culture, or gender.

Habitat for Humanity of Chester County began operations in 1986 as a part of the Greater Philadelphia Habitat for Humanity. Shortly afterwards in 1988, Chester County became a separate affiliate after completing its first home. Today, Habitat for Humanity of Chester County is one of six affiliates in the Delaware Valley and one of 1,600 United States affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International.

Since 1988, Habitat for Humanity Chester County has built 58 homes and refurbished an additional seven properties in the area. In 2003, the organization began construction on eleven new homes in Chester County. Eight of these homes will be located in the city of Coatesville and three in the borough of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.

Volunteers from the community are a vitally important part of Habitat for Humanity. In 2000 alone, community volunteers in Chester County, Pennsylvania contributed more than 25,000 hours of work on the homes for those less fortunate. Habitat for Humanity brings volunteers and future homeowners in the community together in a positive and productive fashion, putting a face and a name on the issue of affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding contributions that Habitat for Humanity has made not only in Chester County, Pennsylvania, but for their service to the needy throughout the world.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA PENNINO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on September 17, Fairfax County, Virginia lost one of its most important and influential citizens when Martha Pennino, known as "Mother Fairfax", passed away. Through her leadership, Mrs. Pennino helped oversee the development of Fairfax County into one of the most successful jurisdictions in the Nation.

From 1968 to 1991 Martha Pennino served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, including 17 years as the Vice Chairman. As the representative of the Centreville District, Mrs. Pennino worked tirelessly for her constituents. During her tenure she was involved in most of the major decisions affecting the County, and was instrumental in seeing Reston develop into a successful planned community. Her work also saw the development of projects including the Dulles Toll Road, South Lakes High School, and the Reston Regional Library. She helped create a sense of community for all those living in her district.

Martha Pennino will best be remembered by the citizens of Fairfax County for her commitment to the poor and homeless in her community. She opened her office at night for people without a home and provided them a bed and a warm place to rest. She created a homeless shelter in her district and ensured that with the enormous development occurring in Fairfax County there would be low-cost housing options for those who needed it. Martha Pennino also helped establish the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission to help fight discrimination throughout the County. While Fairfax County grew, she wanted to ensure that every person could be a part of this vibrant community.

In honor of her work to help all the residents of Fairfax County and for being an instrumental part in the growth of the County, I ask that the Reston Post Office be named after Martha Pennino. It is imperative that we honor and remember this remarkable woman.

HONORING CONTINENTAL NATIONAL BANK FOR 30 YEARS OF
FINANCIAL SERVICE TO THE
SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Continental National Bank of Miami on their 30th anniversary of operations. Continental National Bank is an established and trusted institution that serves the financial needs of my community.

Continental National Bank was established in 1974 and was the first Cuban-American owned national bank chartered in the United States. It is a full service community bank with six branches in Miami, Hialeah and Sweetwater. The bank offers a variety of personal and commercial services, including residential mortgage lending, small builder construction financing, and online banking services.

For 30 years, Continental National Bank has been at the heart of the economic development of South Florida. With quality banking services, a skilled staff and extensive community involvement, Continental National Bank has developed a reputation for caring about its customers while extending knowledgeable and professional banking services.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I warmly congratulate Continental National Bank on this important milestone and thank all of the fine men and women who are part of Continental National for their commitment and faithful service in supporting the needs and priorities of the entire South Florida community.

HONORING RON MCNEALL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ron McNeall. On October 1, Ron is retiring from the Board of Directors of the Missouri Corn Growers Association and Missouri Corn Merchandising Council after 11 years of service.

Ron McNeall was born in Boonville, Cooper County, Missouri on November 30, 1948. He has been married to his wife Carolyn for 33 years, and they have three wonderful children in Travis, Kelly, and Ashley.

In addition to his 11 years of service as a Director on the MCGA/MCMC Board, Ron is also a past MCMC Chairman and MCGA President. At the national level, he has served as a delegate to the National Corn Growers Association and he has served as a National Corn Growers Association Production and Stewardship Action Team Member. He has also been an active member of the United States Grains Council. Ron was a seed salesman for Pioneer Seed for at least 18 years, and served on Pioneer Seed's Advisory Council from 1991–1993.

As a dedicated advocate for agriculture, Ron has been the recipient of numerous awards. In 2000 he received an Honorary State FFA Degree, and in 2003 he was named the Outstanding MCGA Member. While many of us associate Ron's service with the agricultural sector, his dedication extends far beyond it, as he served with distinction on the Keytesville School Board for 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ron McNeall, a remarkable citizen who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service.

HONORING HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER SYLVIA R. GARCIA

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harris County Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia. Aside from her hard work and diligence as an distinguished public servant, she has been an inspiration and a strong leader for the Hispanic communities of Southeast Texas. Prior to her election in 2003, Commis-

sioner Garcia served as Controller for the City of Houston and before that served as the appointed Director and Presiding Judge of the Houston Municipal Court System.

She is not only a great Houstonian, but a proven leader and driving force in her community. As an active leader in the Houston community, the Commissioner has served on more than 25 community boards and commissions, including the San Jacinto Girl Scouts, the Houston Hispanic Forum, the American Leadership Forum, the Texas Southern University Foundation and the Institute of Hispanic Culture. She has selflessly given of herself in order to promote strength and leadership in her community.

Despite the demanding duties of being Harris County Commissioner, she has given of her time to be chairperson or honorary chairperson of many charity functions. Such functions include the kick-off for "America Walks for Strong Women", benefiting the National Osteoporosis Foundation and the "International Paella Festival and Polo Espanol" benefiting Casa de Esperanza and The Mercy Foundation.

Her honors by the media and other organizations speak volumes about her service. She was named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the National Conference of Communities and Justice and has also been honored with the Texas Woman's University Board of Regents Woman of Distinction Award, the Hispanic Scouting Distinguished Citizen Award from the Sam Houston Area Boy Scouts of America, and the Board Award from the San Jacinto Girl Scouts.

Commissioner Garcia's accomplishments should be an inspiration to us all. She has done a fine job as Harris County Commissioner and is an invaluable resource for the Hispanic communities of Texas. She is someone who continues to inspire, and I am proud to recognize her on the floor of the House today.

HONORING THE RUTH PAGE FOUNDATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Ruth Page Foundation of dance and performing arts on more than 30 years of innovative dance and artistic excellence.

The Ruth Page Foundation was established in 1970 in order to uphold and promote the highest quality of performing arts as produced by choreographer and dance icon Ruth Page and continues to be at the forefront of innovative dance theater in Chicago.

A native Chicagoan, Ms. Page gained national recognition through her unprecedented incorporation of the era's social and political issues into her artistic performances. In addition, Ms. Page attained international prominence by becoming the first American to dance with Diaghilev's Ballet Russe. In later years, Ms. Page would go on to choreograph, commission, and dance in a string of hits such as Polka Melancholique and Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

During the Great Depression of the 1930's, Ms. Page teamed up with Bentley Stone to di-

rect the federally funded Chicago Works Progress Administration (WPA) Dance Project. The duo had significant success with their groundbreaking feminist ballet American Patterns, and later became the first American ballet company to tour South America.

However, Ms. Page is probably best remembered for her assiduous efforts in creating and operating numerous dance companies throughout the Chicagoland area. From her first association with the Ravinia Opera in 1926, to her production of the The Nutcracker at McCormick Place's Arie Crown Theater in the mid 1980's, Ms. Page contributed to the city's cultural scene by taking on the roles of prima ballerina, choreographer, director, financial backer, and visionary. Ms. Page, who passed away in 1991, is still considered the grand lady of Chicago dance.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the people of Chicago in congratulating the brilliant Ruth Page Foundation, a company that continues to uphold the quality and discipline that was embodied by its namesake. I am proud of their numerous achievements both on and off the stage and wish them continued growth and success into the future.

HONORING PAUL TUDOR JONES II

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Paul Tudor Jones II for his passionate dedication to conservation techniques and land stewardship practices of his Blue Valley Ranch located in Grand County, CO.

Mr. Jones was the 2004 recipient of the Middle Park Land Trust Land Steward of the Year Award. This annual award is given to the Grand County, CO landowner who most exemplifies the mission of the Middle Park Land Trust in land management and conservation practices who help preserve Grand County's scenery, agriculture, water, wildlife and biodiversity for today and future generations.

Mr. Jones first purchased a portion of the Blue Valley Ranch in 1994, he re-acquired the water rights and began a holistic approach to ranch management which includes wildlife conservation, agricultural production, stream enhancement, recreational activities and in essence, the preservation of our local heritage. The Blue Valley Ranch now encompasses 25,000 acres and is thriving.

The primary focus of the Blue Valley Ranch is wildlife conservation. The ranch has worked in partnership with the Colorado Division of Wildlife on many projects including the reintroduction of antelope south of the Colorado River, sage grouse monitoring and habitat restoration, and wild turkey transplants on both public and private land.

Habitat improvements for both wildlife and livestock have been prescribed burns, forest treatments, crops, and a rotational grazing system.

Many miles of the Blue River and adjoining tributaries that were vulnerable to low flows, high temperatures, and predators have been restored to a more natural condition.

It is a credit to Mr. Jones that agricultural production continues on the Blue Valley

Ranch. Each year, the Ranch puts up hay and runs cattle as well as buffalo.

On behalf of the residents of Grand County CO, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Paul Tudor Jones II for his dedication and commitment to land management and conservation practices and for being selected as the 2004 Middle Park Land Trust Land Steward of the Year Award.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS DEVIN GRELLA

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Devin Grella, a constituent from the 16th District of Ohio, who sacrificed his life fighting for our country. Private First Class Devin Grella of the 706th Transportation Company of the Army Reserve died when incendiaries exploded near his convoy.

A graduate of Medina High School, Pfc Grella was an Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 503 and was active in choir and athletics, participating in both cross-country and lacrosse. Everyone who knew him regarded him as a happy, gentle, and caring man. After his term of service, he planned to go to college in Utah and join ROTC in order to become an officer.

This exceptional young man exhibited valor and a commitment to serving our country. Without people of Pfc Grella's quality, the Nation would fail to carry out its task as a protector of freedom.

My deepest sympathy and prayers are extended to his family and friends who are now in mourning. I pray for the safety of our servicemen and women and thank them for their dedication to the defense of our Nation.

IN HONOR OF LANCE CORPORAL
JACOB RAUL LUGO

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Jacob Raul Lugo, who was killed while defending our Nation on August 24, 2004 in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

For the past year, Lance Corporal Lugo has rendered faithful, conscientious, and valuable services to the U.S. Marine Corps and to the United States of America. Lance Corporal Lugo will be remembered for his commendable service and dedication to this great Nation.

Lance Corporal Lugo was a native of Flower Mound, Texas and a recent graduate of Marcus High School. At Marcus High the future Marine was an exceptional student, participating in both the Marching and Symphonic Bands and excelling academically as a member of the Spanish Honor Society.

In 2001, Mr. Lugo decided to join the Marines, where he served exceptionally in his career. He honored our great country and defended freedom as a member of the Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment,

Weapons Platoon where he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon Second Award and the War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. Lance Corporal Lugo was on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of this young American hero.

HONORING "MOTHER FAIRFAX"
MARTHA PENNINO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on September 17th, Fairfax County, Virginia lost one of its most important and influential citizens when Martha Pennino, known as "Mother Fairfax", passed away. Through her leadership, Mrs. Pennino helped oversee the development of Fairfax County into one of the most prosperous and diverse jurisdictions in the Nation.

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Martha Pennino will best be remembered by the citizens of Fairfax County for her commitment to the poor and homeless in her community. She opened her office at night for people without a home and provided them a bed and a warm place to rest. She created a homeless shelter in her district and ensured that with the enormous development occurring in Fairfax County there would be low-cost housing options for those who needed it. Martha Pennino also helped establish the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission to help fight discrimination throughout the County. While Fairfax County grew, she wanted to ensure that every person could be a part of this vibrant community.

In honor of her work to help all the residents of Fairfax County and for being an instrumental part in the growth of the County, I ask that the Reston Post Office be named after Martha Pennino. It is imperative that we honor and remember this remarkable woman.

FREEDOM FOR MIJAIL BARZAGA
LUGO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about Mijail Barzaga Lugo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Barzaga Lugo is an independent journalist in totalitarian Cuba. He believes in writing and publishing the truth, including about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. In his quest to disseminate the facts about the politics of repression practiced by the tyrant, Mr. Barzaga Lugo has written for various publications, including Cubanet. However, the dictatorship mandates propaganda and the tyrant's thugs arrest and imprison the brave independent journalists who peacefully publish the truth about the decrepit regime.

In March 2003, as part of Castro's brutal crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Barzaga Lugo was arrested. In the sham trial that followed, he was sentenced to 15 years in the abhorrent totalitarian gulag.

According to Amnesty International, the sham trial verdict read, in part, "Mijail Barzaga Lugo, in 2002, wrote, as an independent journalist, in different websites like Cubanet, Cubaliberal, and Payolibre, different articles of a subversive and counterrevolutionary type." Let me be clear, this sham verdict only confirms that Mr. Barzaga Lugo is languishing in the infernal gulag because he heroically wrote the truth about the totalitarian dictatorship.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that anyone, anywhere, is imprisoned in sub-human gulags simply for their belief in truth, freedom and democracy. At the dawn of the 21st century, mankind must no longer tolerate prisoners of conscience in any form, in any place, in any country. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Mijail Barzaga Lugo and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

RECOGNIZING TEN YEARS OF OPERATIONS AT PREMIUM STANDARD FARMS' MILAN PROCESSING FACILITY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Premium Standard Farms Milan Processing Facility. On September 19, 2004 Premium Standard Farms celebrated 10 years since the Milan plant first began operations. When the plant began its operations in 1994, there were only 200 employees. Today, the Milan facility employs more than 900 people and produces more than one million pounds of fresh pork per day.

The Premium Standard Farms Milan Processing Facility has received numerous awards since 1994. Just last year, the plant was named 2003 Food Plant of the Year by Refrigerated and Frozen Foods magazine. This prestigious award recognizes the company's exceptional record for not only food safety, but worker safety as well. Premium Standard Farms sets high standards to provide an all around safe product. During 3 of the last 4 years, employees at the facility have worked over one million combined hours without a lost-time accident of any kind, a feat that many plants have not achieved even once. This spring, the Milan Processing Facility received the American Meat Institute's highest safety award: the Award of Honor. The Award of Honor is presented to those facilities that

demonstrate continuous improvement in safety, based on criteria administered by the National Safety Council. Only 1 percent of U.S. slaughter plants receive this honor.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Premium Standard Farms on 10 years of safe and productive operations at the Milan Processing Facility.

SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S EFFORT TO RETURN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, in seeking to return to the United Nations, the Republic of China on Taiwan will once again ask diplomatic allies to present its case before the United Nations this fall. I am in total sympathy with Taiwan's effort. Taiwan is the only nation not represented in the U.N. Taiwan's exclusion from the U.N. violates the principles and spirit of the U.N. Charter, especially the fundamental principle of universality and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As we all know, the U.N. Charter demands that this global body welcome the participation of all people, including the 23 million people of Taiwan. Those who object to Taiwan's participation in the U.N. argue that U.N. Resolution 2758, adopted in 1971, makes the People's Republic of China the legitimate representative of Taiwan. The fact is that the PRC has never exercised jurisdiction over Taiwan. It is absurd to claim that the PRC can speak for a land and people over which it has no control. If the United Nations is founded on the principle of the equality of sovereign nations, it has no reason not to recognize Taiwan's sovereignty as an independent nation. It must and should give Taiwan representation.

Moreover, as we live in an era of the ascendancy of democracy and human rights, we must see that Taiwan has been a vibrant democracy with a democratically elected president and legislature. Taiwan's government upholds human rights. Its citizens enjoy freedom of assembly, association and religion. Free nations of the world cannot allow Taiwan, a beacon of democracy, to be subdued by an authoritarian China.

Besides being a multiparty democracy, Taiwan is an economic powerhouse, now ranking as the world's 14th largest economy. It has the potential to be a valuable party to ensure peace, security and progress in the Pacific region. Clearly it does not serve anyone's interest to keep Taiwan out of the United Nations. Also, as Asian-Pacific nations are confronted with problems of environmental degradation, greenhouse effects, depletion of marine and other resources, poverty and disease, Taiwan could play a significant role in grappling with some of these concerns if it were allowed to work with the United Nations and its agencies. No such opportunity awaits Taiwan today.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that Taiwan has been poorly treated by the United Nations. Taiwan has been a responsible global citizen for years. It has done a good job, for example, in helping to resettle refugees in Afghanistan, in preventing AIDS in Africa and in dispatching numerous technical and medical teams to de-

veloping countries in Latin America and Africa. U.N. should recognize and reward Taiwan's global outreach to needy countries.

Maybe the solution is parallel representation for both Taiwan and the People's Republic of China on the pattern of the previous East and West Germanys and the North and South Koreas. Such an arrangement would provide Taiwan and China with a forum for dialogue whereby they may forge closer ties based on mutual understanding and respect, leading to permanent peace in the Taiwan Strait.

For all the reasons named above, my colleagues and I urge the United Nations to consider Taiwan's bid to return to the U.N. with thought and wisdom.

HONORING THE JOFFREY BALLET OF CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago on more than 40 years of excellence and artistic achievement.

Since its foundation in 1956, the Joffrey Ballet has brought a unique and innovative approach to American dance theater. In addition to entertaining Chicago audiences for decades, the Joffrey exists as a touring company with a repertoire of original ballets and choreography that have been enjoyed by ballet fans worldwide.

Created by Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino, the Joffrey held its first major production at Chicago's 8th Street Theater on January 22, 1957. The performance proved to be a tremendous success, and helped establish the Joffrey as one of the best national companies of the day. In addition, the Joffrey has received international acclaim for its performances in 25 foreign countries, including Korea, Syria, and Afghanistan.

Renowned for a remarkable repertory of more than 225 ballets by 85 choreographers, The Joffrey commissioned the first ballets of such notable American choreographers as Alvin Ailey, Laura Dean, Anna Sokolow, and Chicagoan Randy Duncan. Furthermore, the company has revived many of the lost classics such as *Parade* from 1909, and *The Three-Cornered Hat* from 1919. In addition, The Joffrey has achieved great success by incorporating modern technology and pop culture into its productions to create ballets that are appealing to modern audiences.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the people of Chicago in congratulating The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, one of Chicago's finest cultural institutions. From its brilliant original productions, to its extraordinary presentations of the classics, the company continues to perform ballet at the very highest of levels. I am happy to applaud their numerous achievements, and to wish them continued growth and future success.

HISPANIC ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. HINOJOSA. I rise today to commend the University of Texas Pan American on organizing the 3rd annual Hispanic Engineering Science and Technology Week (HESTEC), a national celebration, emphasizing the importance of math and science literacy by highlighting rewarding career paths in engineering, science, and technology.

The University of Texas Pan American is one of the premier Hispanic-Serving Institutions in the Nation not just because of the large number of Hispanic students that attend classes here but because of the university's longstanding and deeply rooted commitment to expanding access to education for our community. HESTEC is just one example of that commitment to our young people, our future.

We are in the midst of celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month—a time to celebrate Hispanic culture and the many contributions Hispanic Americans have made to this great Nation. The University of Texas Pan American, through the HESTEC initiative, has decided to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by looking to the future.

Love of country is a fundamental value in the Hispanic community. When the nation is in need, Hispanic Americans have always answered the call to serve. It is in this fine tradition that University of Texas Pan American founded HESTEC.

HESTEC is a call to serve. It is a call to our Hispanic youth to step in and fill the pressing national need for highly trained professionals in the fields of science, engineering, and technology.

Our Nation is facing a shortage of critical proportions in the fields of math, science, engineering and technology. Science and engineering employment opportunities are increasing three times faster than all other occupations. Yet, the number of college students entering the fields of math, science and engineering continues to decline, placing America's position as the world's leader in science and technology at risk. Increasingly, Hispanics will be called upon to reverse that trend. By the year 2010, Hispanics will represent 1 out of 4 students in U.S. schools, but today only 4 percent of U.S. scientists and engineers are Hispanic. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity for higher education institutions to attract more Hispanics entering the career fields of science and technology.

The University of Texas Pan American recognized that Hispanic Serving Institutions have a unique responsibility to meet this challenge and to increase the number of Hispanics in math, science, engineering and technology fields. Therefore, in October 2002, under the leadership and vision of Roland Arriola, vice president of external affairs, the university hosted the first Hispanic Engineering Science Technology Conference (HESTEC).

Since its inception, HESTEC has captured the imagination of South Texas and galvanized the community around the goal of preparing the next generation of mathematicians, scientists, engineers, and technology experts. This event has engaged our community on all

levels. Last year, HESTEC reached over 1,500 teachers, 25,000 community members, and 330,000 students from across Texas. The initiative also has generated \$1 million in scholarship dollars for college students.

The University of Texas Pan American has created a model initiative for the Nation. Today, on the eve of the 3rd annual HESTEC and in the midst of our national celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting this fine institution for its service to the Hispanic community and to the Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS "OZARK" IN PORTLAND, OR, AND HONORING ITS CREW

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure today that I welcome the crewmembers of the USS *Ozark* back to Portland, OR to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the ship's commissioning on September 23, 1944. The *Ozark*, built by the Willamette Iron and Steel Corporation here in Portland, crossed the Columbia River bar less than 2 weeks later and played a vital role in our Nation's victory in the Pacific Theater during World War II. The Pacific Theater saw some of the war's most dangerous naval encounters, and the commitment of the USS *Ozark's* crewmembers is a testimony of their bravery and sacrifice.

In the Pacific Theater, the ship and its crew transported troops for the invasion of Iwo Jima and evacuated wounded Marines to hospitals in Guam. After seeing further action in the Pacific Theater, the USS *Ozark* was present in Tokyo Harbor during the historic ceremony where the Japanese surrendered on board the USS *Missouri*. The ship then returned 950 recovered American prisoners of war to the United States via Guam and Pearl Harbor.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those who served aboard the USS *Ozark* for their brave efforts in the defense of our Nation. I wish them a festive 60th anniversary celebration this week in Portland.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LOWELL E. ENSLEN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. Lowell E. Ensenlen during 52 years of service in the Northwest Indiana community. Lowell has spent nearly five decades representing his community. His career as a lawyer has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people.

Lowell E. Ensenlen was born in Gary, Indiana in 1927. He attended Hobart public schools and Valparaiso University. Lowell was admit-

ted to the American Bar Association in 1952. He was National President of Sigma Delta Kappa from 1963–1964, Town Attorney of Dyer, Indiana from 1957–1960, 1962, and 1964–1972 and of Cedar Lake, Indiana, from 1976–1980. Lowell has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. He is a member of Ensenlen, Ensenlen & Matthews Law Firm, which was established in 1960. Ensenlen, Ensenlen, & Matthews Law Firm provides general civil, criminal and appellate practice in all State and Federal courts, family/domestic relations, probate and estate planning, insurance, real estate and labor relations law.

Not only has Lowell Ensenlen had many constructive accomplishments throughout his career as a lawyer, he has also actively contributed to his community through participation in various programs designed at improving opportunities for the people of Northwest Indiana. Lowell was President of Members Hammond from 1965–1966 and is currently affiliated with Lake County, Indiana State, and American Bar Associations, American Judicature Society, Indiana Trial Lawyers Association, The Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and Fellow Indiana Bar Foundation. Along with his many other accomplishments, Lowell has received numerous certificates and awards.

Lowell has demonstrated his faithfulness by his extraordinary service to Ensenlen, Ensenlen, & Matthews and his community through his hard work and self-sacrifice. Although Lowell has served on numerous committees and has dedicated his time to Ensenlen, Ensenlen, & Matthews, he has never neglected to provide support and love to his family.

Mr. Speaker, Lowell E. Ensenlen has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of Northwest Indiana throughout his years of service. He has taught every member of Ensenlen, Ensenlen, & Matthews the true meaning of service to all members of the Northwest Indiana community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Lowell E. Ensenlen for his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. I am proud to commend him for his lifetime of service and devotion.

TRIBUTE TO INSPECTOR DENNIS WITULSKI AND BIO-OPERATIONS CHIEF ANTHONY MALTESE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 24, 2004 the Sterling Heights Fire Fighters Union will host their Annual Dinner-Dance, honoring their 2004 retirees. This yearly event, honors Sterling Heights firefighters for their dedication to their community and recognizes their commendable contributions to the city. I am pleased to be associated with this fine organization and to call many of them my friends.

I am proud to rise today to pay tribute to the careers of two retiring firefighters.

Inspector Dennis Witulski, discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1973, was appointed as a Sterling Heights firefighter on July 20, 1981. He was promoted to FEO in 1992 and then

promoted again to Lieutenant in 1996. Mr. Witulski was deemed Firefighter of the Year in 2001 by the city of Sterling Heights and American Legion Post 151. He twice received Perfect Attendance awards in 1996 and 2002. Mr. Witulski received various merits and awards throughout his tenure with the fire department, and retired on July 20, 2004.

Bio-Operations Chief Anthony Maltese was born in Detroit, Michigan, on June 6, 1950. He was appointed to the position of firefighter January 29, 1973. He received commendation for responding to a house fire in 1974 and a Meritorious Unit Citation for a lifesaving incident in 1986. Mr. Maltese was promoted to Lieutenant in July of 1992, and promoted again to Captain in October of 1995. He received his Associates Degree, Cum Laude, in 1994 and was appointed Battalion Chief in 1997. Mr. Maltese retired as Operations Chief on November 19, 2003.

Many of us embark on a profession that does not call for us to put our lives in danger each day we go into work. These men chose to dedicate their careers and their lives to helping people in their community stay safe and secure, and putting their lives in harm's way to save a life, a family, a home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these two heroes, who have dedicated themselves to Sterling Heights and the community at large in a way that few can; with valor, commitment and honor.

TRIBUTE TO GIANNA ANGELO POULOS-DASKALAKI FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, the woman who was responsible for the success of the 2004 Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece. As head of the Athens 2004 Organizing Committee, "Mrs. A" was instrumental in ensuring that Athens remained the site of Summer Games and that the massive undertaking of construction and organization was completed.

Preparing for an event that is as elaborate as the Olympic Games is a monumental task—one which was almost lost to Athens. Credit for the success of the Games has gone to the leadership and determination of Mrs. A whose vision, tenacity, and pride in Greece enabled the Athens 2004 Organizing Committee to overcome every challenge they faced.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend this summer's games and found myself in awe of all that surrounded me. From the magic of the opening ceremonies and the lighting of the Olympic Torch to the incredible athletic venues, Athens was nothing short of spectacular. As the Games were brought back to their birthplace, the city was reborn—the Old World met the New and people from across the world celebrated in the spirit of competition. Whether spectators marveled at the breathtaking image of the lighted Parthenon in the night sky, or took in the

beauty of the Greek countryside as marathon runners raced along the original route from the city of Marathon to the Olympic Stadium, Mrs. A brought the world to Athens—reminding us of all that this ancient civilization has meant to world history and of all that this great country has yet to offer.

In the days before the opening ceremony, Mrs. A wrote, "Some will call what we have achieved a miracle. It is a miracle, but one that's man-made—a product of hard work, discipline and the pride of the Greek people." She could not have been more accurate. Today's Athens is a unique blend of an ancient civilization and modern marvel—with its rich history celebrated and showcased for the world to enjoy. In ensuring the success of the 2004 Olympic Games, Mrs. A has also brought renewed vigor and beauty to one of the world's most fascinating cities.

For her outstanding contributions to both the 2004 Olympic Games and to the city of Athens, I am proud to stand and congratulate Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki. She has left an indelible mark on our consciousness and shared history.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT STEPHEN TYLER STOKES

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the perseverance and achievement of Stephen Tyler Stokes in earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America, Oconeechee Council—Troop 104, on December 12, 2003, and entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as such. His Court of Honor commenced on July 24, 2004.

While a member of Troop 104 in Wake County, North Carolina, Stephen served in various positions including Librarian, Instructor, Troop Guide, Assistant Patrol Leader, and even Patrol Leader. He learned what it takes to assist his fellow scouts and how to lead them. Stephen attended the National Boy Scout Jamboree in 2001, at Ft. A.P. Hill in Virginia, which influenced him to become an Eagle Scout and a role model for younger boys.

In addition to devoting his time to being an Eagle Scout, Stephen attended Broughton High School in Raleigh, NC, where he helped establish the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Program, participated in the Chess Club, and served as webmaster for the Literary Magazine and the Japanese Animation Club. Stephen received an Enterprise in Action Certificate of Achievement from Junior Achievement and was listed in the publication Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Stephen's commitment to serving his community and helping others is truly commendable. He has helped construct homes in Charleston and Philadelphia as part of Habitat for Humanity's ongoing inner-city improvement projects. During Stephen's 8 years with the Boy Scouts, he was an active participant in the Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, and Citizenship in the World volunteer programs.

Mr. Speaker, I know his father Steven and his mother Jamie are proud of all that their

son has accomplished and join me in recognizing that the achievement of earning the rank of Eagle Scout is just the beginning of a bright future for their talented and deeply committed son.

The journey a young man makes to earn the rank of Eagle Scout requires not only a scout's dedication to his community, but also the community's dedication to the scout. I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Stephen Tyler Stokes, his family and Troop 104.

CONGRATULATIONS, TAMI DOETCH

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, what an honor it is to be able to congratulate Tami Doetch, a teacher at Wilson Elementary School in my hometown of Janesville, Wisconsin, for being recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a No Child Left Behind American Star of Teaching.

Every day, Tami Doetch goes to school committed to helping students learn to read and master the building blocks that will form the foundation of their education. She teaches third- and fourth-graders and has put a lot of time and energy into helping English language learners.

By using effective teaching techniques to open up the world of reading to her students, she is giving them the tools to achieve their dreams, not to mention countless hours of reading enjoyment throughout their lives.

Tami Doetch has also taken a leadership role, going above and beyond her work in the classroom. She oversaw the incorporation of the Harcourt Brace Reading Program into instruction at Wilson Elementary. And she has led tutoring and after-school reading programs.

For many of us, our most challenging teachers are the ones we remember most fondly because they pushed us to think and taught us lessons that we still rely on today. I have no doubt that Tami Doetch's students will remember her fondly and gratefully for her dedication to their reading instruction and overall education.

ESSAY BY BROOK ROBISON "MY COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE"

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Brooke Robison, a high-school student at Layton High School in The First Congressional District of Utah was selected earlier this year as a recipient of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' 2004 "Voice of Democracy" scriptwriting contest. I commend to my colleagues her essay which speaks so movingly of the sacrifices of her grandfather and, indeed, all members of the U.S. Armed Forces in protecting our freedom.

MY COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

(By Brooke Robison, Utah)

On a stormy afternoon in February I was working towards an easy "A" for my history class. The assignment was to write an essay on a veteran's most memorable war experience. "Piece of cake," I thought. "I'll just interview my Grandpa, he fought in World War II. He might even have a story written up for me by the time I got there and I could be on my way." But, when I arrived at my grandparent's home, I saw that he had brought out piles of war memorabilia to show me. "Great," I thought, "this is going to take longer than I thought. I'm actually going to have to act interested." I picked up a photograph and was drawn in by the dashingly handsome young pilot that smiled up at me. The other aged photographs began to intrigue me and I gently fingered the old uniforms and medals and read the letters he had saved. I had never really thought of him as a young guy. I mean he was always, you know, GRANDPA! I was surprisingly fascinated about the life he had when he was barely older than I am now. I became anxious to hear the story he had selected to share with me for my project. Little did I know that his story would rock my shallow little world.

Near the end of the war a group of cocky young pilots emerged from their mess tent in Germany. They nearly ran into a truck full of sandy material parked near them on the street. My grandfather, a bright and promising mining engineer before the war, prided himself on being able to quickly identify almost any rock or mineral. He boasted that he could probably tell the make up of the sand just by touching it. He thrust his hand in and let it run through his fingers. Puzzled, he did it again and again, sniffing it and rubbing it between his palms. "What is this?" he thought, "I must be losing my touch!" He approached the driver of the truck and explained his professional background. "What is this stuff?", he asked, "I just can't figure it out!" The driver answered with a tone of one who had learned to distance himself from the daily horror of his job. "Ashes," he replied flatly, "human ashes."

The driver's answer struck me as hard as it did my grandfather decades ago. I felt as if my eyes had been opened for the first time. Wars weren't just a flash of information on the news or something that starred Tom Hanks. My young, handsome grandfather had watched the remains of thousands of innocent lives run through his fingers like common playground dirt. His efforts, and those of thousands of others, made sure that this carnage would stop. Brushing aside tears he whispered to me, "Tell this story, tell it, so this can never happen again." I came away from that visit with my grandfather knowing I had lived a shallow and ungrateful life. As corny as it may sound, my grandfather's story changed who I am and what I will do with my future. I learned that day that I have a responsibility to my country. The sale at the mall or having a date on Saturday night is nowhere near as important to me as my latest service project. I feel that if America's soldiers can endure so much to make our world a better place, I can certainly do all I can to improve my little corner of it. I have developed a passion to learn about wars and conflicts in our history. I have joined political youth groups so I can be well informed when I'm old enough to vote. I collect food for the local food pantry, fill and deliver bags of supplies for children in shelters, and make blankets for homeless. I wrote a song that encourages young people to get involved in community service. I was honored to perform it this past summer at a national award ceremony honoring outstanding youth in service. Performing with

the Marines the last two years I became aware that gifts for teenagers run out early. There are never enough. I knew I could come up with a plan to help. I developed a program called Toys for Teens that involves running teen gift drives in our high schools and middle schools. I presented my idea to the Marines in my area and it was enthusiastically approved. The program is well received and is being implemented all across the state giving other young people the opportunity to know joy of giving back to their community. We hope to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of donations. With this project I am proud to serve the youth of my community while also supporting my country's servicemen.

But I feel that the most important thing that I can do to show my commitment to America's future, is to tell my grandfather's story. As young people we need to make an effort to hear and pass on the stories from our country's past. Armed with the strength of the stories of our Nation's past heroes, we can truly have an inspired commitment to America's future.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGEA BLACK
McKINLEY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Georgea Black McKinley, an Arkansan whose dedication to her family, her church and her community was as strong as the constitution of her pioneering ancestors.

Mrs. McKinley could trace her family roots all the way back to the true founders of this great nation: America's first pioneers. In order to stay in touch with her historic and noble history, Mrs. McKinley was a member of the Arkansas Pioneers, United Daughters of the Confederacy and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Born in DeWitt, Arkansas, she was the daughter of the late Lester A. and Mary Black. Mrs. McKinley attended DeWitt schools, Ward Belmont School in Nashville, Tennessee and then Randolph Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Mrs. McKinley's family holds a special place in my own career, as well. It was Georgea's father, L.A., who had vision of how crucial water is to a farmer. I have no doubt Mr. Black also passed down his knowledge of irrigation strategies and water management issues to his daughter. I never met him, but the legacy of the value of water has impacted my home community forever.

Georgea McKinley was an active Methodist, but her commitments to her community did not stop at the church steps. She was a member of the Aesthetic Club, The Colonial Dames of America, Little Rock Garden Club, Junior League of Little Rock and the Edelweiss Club.

Mrs. McKinley leaves behind a large and loving family filled with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. On behalf of the Congress, I extend sympathies to her family and the utmost respect to a woman whose love for her friends and family was unlimited and whose time was generously shared with the community. Georgea Black McKinley was a true role model, and I am honored to be able to recognize her in this Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAIL AND
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to be joined by my Democratic colleague from New Jersey to introduce the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act, which would force the Federal Government to finally get serious about protecting our Nation's transit and intercity rail passengers.

This bill addresses the tremendous disparity between what we spend on security for each airline passenger and what we spend for each bus and train passenger, who are no less vulnerable than those who fly. In fact, data from the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism shows that public transportation passengers are in far more danger worldwide than airline passengers. Since 9/11, there have been roughly 50 terrorist incidents targeting airports and airlines, resulting in about 120 deaths. In the same 3 years, there have been over 280 terrorist attacks on other transportation systems, with over 600 fatalities.

The recent attacks in Spain, and intelligence that terrorists may strike the rail and systems here in America, dictate that we now broaden our attention to also include rail and transit security. Each year, approximately 24 million intercity rail passengers ride Amtrak, and 9.6 billion people travel by transit. Every day, 32 million commuters, students, and tourists depend on our public transportation system. One of the ripple effects of 9/11 was that the aviation industry was shut down for several days. Imagine the social and economic dislocation that would occur if a major attack destroyed people's confidence in our transit system, or made it grind to a halt. The economic impact would be far greater than 9/11.

Our Nation's rail and transit systems are highly vulnerable, and require at least \$5.2 billion in capital equipment and \$800 million in annual operating expenses to adequately meet security needs, according to the American Public Transportation Association. This legislation provides that funding, and just as importantly, it allows operating expense grant money to be used for the best security device of all: more police officers.

Giving our transit agencies money for fences, cameras and explosive detection equipment is necessary, but only a half-measure unless we also give them money for the cops and security officers that make all that equipment work. This bill allows money to be used for hiring new cops and security officers, pay them overtime when necessary, deploy additional K-9 units, conduct helicopter patrols, and more. In short, it unties the hands of our transit agencies and lets them spend the money where they need it.

This legislation also provides badly needed security and safety funding for Amtrak, including \$670 million for safety upgrades to the tunnels that run underneath New York, Baltimore, and Washington, DC. These tunnels are simply not properly equipped for rescue operations or evacuation should either be necessary. An additional \$62 million for Amtrak to put towards security expenses, including the

hiring of additional police officers, is also provided.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize new research and development grants to help develop new technologies for both passenger and freight rail that can help reduce the threat of terrorist attacks. And since rail security involves more than just deterring terrorist attacks, the legislation would establish new inspection procedures for rail track, and set new standards for tank cars, to make sure their hazardous cargo isn't released in the event of an accident.

I believe this bill is already long overdue. I urge my colleagues to imagine what we would have done, what action we would have taken, if the Madrid train bombings had occurred in our homeland, on our soil. What immediate investments would we have been ready to make? What urgent action would we have been willing to take?

Well, we can do it now. Let's make that investment and take those actions now. Let's take what steps we can to reduce the risk to our Nation's transit. We don't need commissions and studies after a tragedy in order to act, so let's not get mired in that now. Nearly 3 years of needs assessment and analysis have occurred, and we have the data to put a program in place. All it takes is Congress having the gumption to act before a tragedy on the rails takes place in this country.

QUESTIONING BUSH'S RECORD ON
VETERANS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on August 16, President Bush stood before the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and proclaimed: "... my administration has a solid record of accomplishment for our veterans ... To provide health care to veterans, we've increased VA medical care funding by 41 percent over the past 4 years."

The reality is far more complex.

In 1997, Congress gave the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) the authority to collect and retain veterans' copayments for health care. As a result, about 6.4 percent of the VA's medical care system is now (fiscal year 2004) comprised of veterans' copayments. The Bush Administration has made no secret that it would like to increase the share of this budget borne by veterans, including combat decorated veterans, while at the same time taking steps to discourage veterans' use of their health care system or explicitly bar their entrance into the system. The Administration's budget request for fiscal year 2005 would increase the share of the budget financed by veterans to 8.7 percent.

The Congress—for the third consecutive year—has rejected the legislative proposals in the President's budget that would charge a new enrollment fee for certain veterans and increase copayments for pharmaceutical drugs. Democrats in the House and Senate have also asked VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi to reconsider his current position to prohibit some veterans from enrolling in the VA health care system.

The President's claim that "we've" added 41 percent for VA medical care gives the false

impression that he has endorsed all of these increases to the VA budget. In fact, the President has requested only about a 25 percent increase in appropriated funding over 5 years; the remainder has come from funding added by Congress and from increased collections of copayments from veterans.

Keep in mind that during the same period, the number of veterans entering the VA health care system grew by almost 50 percent. Additionally, medical inflation (which VA forecast at five percent per year) increased by seven to eight percent per year. The total average annual increases of eight percent over the five budget cycles in question still have required VA to take dramatic action to continue to deliver health care services to veterans. In addition to halting enrollment for tens of thousands of veterans with incomes as low as \$25,000 who might not be able to afford private health insurance, VA has proposed elimination of nursing home care for all but the most severely service-disabled veterans.

Moreover, the President has actually opposed Congressional efforts to add funds to the VA health care system. On July 26, 2002, Congress authorized \$275 million to address the costs of caring for VA's higher priority groups—service-connected and low-income veterans and those in need of specialized services. The President failed to designate these funds as emergency spending pursuant to the Balanced Budget Act, so the additional resources Congress sought to provide, which would have remained available to the agency throughout fiscal year 2003, were sacrificed.

The Bush Administration also objected to Congressional attempts to add \$1.3 billion for veterans' health care in the FY 2004 Emergency Supplemental for Iraq and Afghanistan Security and Reconstruction Bill. Joshua Bolten, Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) wrote to House and Senate appropriators on October 21, 2003: "The Administration strongly opposes these provisions that would allocate an additional \$1.3 billion for VA medical care . . ."

A second Bush term would likely create an even more difficult funding environment for veterans' programs. OMB guidance leaked to the Washington Post this spring indicated that, for fiscal year 2006, the White House would require VA to identify \$910 million to cut from its fiscal year 2005 budget request for discretionary programs—primarily, medical care, construction, and research.

The President also told the VFW: "We've reduced the large backlog of disability claims by about a third; we will reduce it even further."

Again, not so and not likely. When President Bush assumed office in January 2001, 278,334 veterans' disability claims were awaiting a VA rating decision. As of August 21, 2004, there were 330,380 disability claims awaiting a rating decision. The one-third reduction claimed by President Bush is not supported by VA's own data.

I am concerned that the Bush Administration's emphasis on productivity as a goal in itself, has actually been harmful to veterans. Veterans need a timely accurate decision when they apply for benefits. In an effort to meet production goals, I have found veterans rated on the basis of inadequate medical examinations which do not fully address the impact of a veteran's disability on his or her abil-

ity to function. It is tempting for well-meaning VA employees under pressure to reduce the backlog to decide the claim rather than sending the examination back to correct the deficiencies.

One measure of accuracy is the marked increase in veterans' claims pending at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA). When President Bush assumed office, 87,291 appeals were pending. As of August 14, 2004, there were 149,222 appeals pending. With increasing frequency, BVA continues to send claims back for evidence which should have been obtained before the claim was decided.

The prospect for the future is even worse. Despite increasing numbers of claims for service-connected compensation from the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as past conflicts, the Bush Administration fiscal year 2005 budget calls for 289 fewer full-time employees to handle disability compensation claims than were on the rolls in 2003. Cutting employees who decide these claims at a time when the number and complexity of claims is increasing does a great disservice to veterans.

The misdirection in the President's speech continued: "For more than a century, federal law prohibited disabled veterans from receiving both their military retired pay and their VA disability compensation. Combat-injured and severely disabled veterans deserve better. I was proud to be the first President in over 100 years to sign concurrent receipt legislation."

Considering his threats to veto it, his party's vehement objections to it, and the behind-closed-doors Republican "compromise" that excludes two-thirds of those eligible and forces the rest to wait 10 years to receive full benefits, "proud" seems an odd choice of words.

"We're getting the job done in Washington, D.C.," said the President to the VFW. Earlier this year, VFW then-Commander-in-Chief Edward S. Banas, Sr., gave his own assessment: "The President ignored veterans in the State of the Union Address and with [the] release of his 2005 budget, it is further evident that veterans are no longer a priority with this administration . . . the American people will not tolerate this shoddy treatment of America's veterans, especially at a time of war."

RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL F. CANTWELL IN HONOR OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who I am fortunate enough to call a dear friend, Mr. Michael Cantwell. Mike, who started his career as an Apprentice Steamfitter in 1960, will be retiring this week, leaving behind a legacy of public service and dedication to working families throughout the great State of New Jersey.

As a longtime union member and leader, Mike has tirelessly devoted his efforts and time to countless State, county and municipal organizations. For the past 44 years, he has served proudly, as a member of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, Locals 236 and 9. Currently, he serves as Local 9's business manager, financial sec-

retary-treasurer. As a staunch supporter of worker's rights and active union member and leader, Mike currently serves as the vice president of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO and the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council. He is also a member of the New Jersey Joint Labor-Management Committee and the New Jersey Alliance for Action.

In addition, Mike is president of the New Jersey State Association of Pipe Trades, and the Mechanical Trades Council of New Jersey. He also chairs the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union No. 9 Joint Apprenticeship Committee, as well as the Trustees of the Education Fund—UA/Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors Association of New Jersey.

For the past 17 years, Mike has proudly served on the Mercer County vocational Technical School Board, and his civic responsibilities also include his service on the New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission Executive Committee and the Mercer County Planning Board.

An avid golfer, and proud father of 4, Michael, Lee, Barbara and Patrick, and grandfather to Luke and Eric, Mike has been married to his wife Lynne for the past 44 years. A true friend, and ardent supporter, Mike has been invaluable to my reelection efforts over the years. I have profound admiration and respect for Mike, and I am certain that his best years have yet to come. I wish Mike and his family the best that retirement has to offer and I extend my heartfelt praise and gratitude for all that he has done.

VIDEO VOYEURISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my strong support for passage of S. 1301, the Video Voyeurism Prevention Act. I wish to thank Chairman OXLEY, Senator DEWINE, Senator SCHUMER, as well as Chairman SENSENBRENNER and Ranking Member CONYERS for their work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately video voyeurism has become a rapidly growing national problem. With the development of the Internet and miniature camera technology, anybody can now readily invade the privacy of another by secretly videotaping or photographing others and putting those compromising images on the Internet. We all regularly see pop up advertisements on the Internet for new miniature camera technology. Undoubtedly this technology is being used by many "Peeping Toms" to spy on others. It is time that Congress takes a stand against the growing misuse of these new technologies.

S. 1301, the Video Voyeurism Act makes it illegal for anyone on federal property to capture an improper image of another under circumstances that clearly violates the privacy of that individual. It is my hope that this legislation will spur individual states to follow suit and update their criminal codes to ensure that their citizens are similarly protected from video voyeurism in areas under state jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, every American has a fundamental right to privacy that should be protected from intentional, unwanted incursion. S. 1301, the Video Voyeurism Prevention Act takes an important step towards updating our nation's privacy protections for a new generation of video and camera technology. I support passage of this legislation.

**DOCTORS FOR DESIGNATED
DRIVING**

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements of Doctors for Designated Driving which is putting one of President George W. Bush's guiding principles—compassionate conservatism—into practice.

Doctors for Designated Driving is a group of physicians dedicated to working with the hospitality industry and other groups to promote the role of the designated driver. The group recognizes cooperating partners for their commitment to public safety through publicity and recognition awards including the "Platinum Key of Life."

I am proud that the Jacksonville Jaguars, together with the National Football League and the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) Coalition, are supporting the designated driver programs during the 2004 season with a special incentive. This year Alltel Stadium—home of the Jacksonville Jaguars and host of Super Bowl XXXIX—encourages responsibility by providing fans a designated driver booth program where participating patrons receive free non-alcoholic drinks. Fans who register to be a designated driver will pledge not to drink alcohol, will drive their friends and family home safely, and will ensure that everyone always buckles up. At the end of the season, the TEAM Coalition and the Jacksonville Jaguars will select one designated driver to represent the team at Super Bowl XXXIX. The selected designated driver will receive two tickets to the game and hotel accommodations.

I want to commend my friend, Dr. Howard Forman, for his work in founding Doctors for Designated Driving. With our strong support, it is my hope that Doctors for Designated Driving will be successful in the promotion of designated drivers throughout the nation.

RECOGNITION OF ROBERT MARQUETTE, NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTOR ON THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Marquette, the president and CEO of Members 1st Federal Credit Union, headquartered in Mechanicsburg, PA, on his recent election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions,

NAFCU. Bob has been a vocal supporter of credit union issues at both the state and national levels.

Bob's election to the NAFCU board is just one more in a long list of accomplishments that has spanned more than 30 years of service in the credit union movement. Bob serves on the board of directors for both the Credit Union Campaign for Consumer Choice and the Pennsylvania Credit Union Foundation. Additionally, Bob serves on the Philadelphia Fed's Credit Union Advisory Council. Bob is a tireless advocate of the credit union movement and I am sure he will serve NAFCU, and the entire credit union community, well in his new position on the board of directors.

Under Bob's management Members 1st FCU has continued to flourish. Today, Member's 1st has 15 branches serving more than 93,000 Pennsylvanians living and working in the south central region of the State.

It is because of the good work of Bob and others like him that the credit union movement enjoys the success it has today. As the President/CEO of Members 1st, Bob has focused on ensuring his members receive helpful, personal service that caters to the needs of individual members and their financial goals. Such service is the hallmark of the credit union movement and Members 1st has exemplified that philosophy under Bob's tenure as president. I wish Bob good luck in his new role as a member of the NAFCU Board of Directors.

**CALLING FOR THE SUSPENSION
OF SUDAN'S MEMBERSHIP ON
THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support S. Con. Res. 137, calling for the suspension of Sudan's membership on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. For nearly 20 months now, there have been atrocities in Darfur, Sudan. The group that have been committing these killings are called "Janjaweed." The Janjaweed are a Sudanese government sponsored militia group.

There is a creditable amount of testimony to confirm that the Sudanese government have been using the Janjaweed as an extension of their military to forcibly remove the Black Africans in Darfur from their land. The Janjaweed have been linked to brutal executions, rape, pillage and burning of villages.

Recently, the Secretary of State had no choice but to acknowledge the genocide publicly. He has returned to the UN with a new resolution calling for sanctions if Khartoum refuses to disarm militias in Darfur and to allow more African Union soldiers in to monitor.

We are aware that there are American companies with interest in Sudan but principles must come before profits.

I rise to ask all Members to join us and call for Sudan's membership on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to be revoked and I unequivocally support this resolution.

**A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
TONY L. CORWIN, U.S. MARINE
CORPS**

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise today to recognize Major General Tony L. Corwin, United States Marine Corps. Major General Corwin has served as the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps for the last five years.

Many Members of Congress and their staffs have come to know General Corwin as an exceptional spokesman for the United States Marine Corps. His straightforward approach and extensive knowledge of programs and policy have been of great benefit to the U.S. Congress, and our national security.

Through the effective communication efforts of General Corwin, the U.S. Congress has been kept fully informed of the crucial programs vital to the success of America's force-in-readiness: the United States Marine Corps. These important programs include, the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), the V-22 program, the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV), the KC-130J, the Maritime Prepositioned Force (Future), initial issue of gear for the individual Marine, LHD-17, LHA (R). General Corwin is thoroughly knowledgeable on all of these programs.

General Corwin has provided Congress with vital information regarding the purchase of the Blount Island Maritime Prepositioning port facility, and why it is vital to the United States' national security. As a result of his efforts, the House has agreed to provide \$115 million to acquire this property. In his role as lead liaison with the Marine Corps, General Corwin has overseen the responses to more than 25,000 congressional inquiries made to House and Senate Members. His responses have always been timely, accurate, and professional.

The Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms—the Corps' largest base—is in my district, and I receive numerous requests from Marines, and their family members on a myriad of issues. General Corwin and his superb staff have helped me provide top-notch service for these defenders of our Nation.

General Corwin is known for his in-depth knowledge of the legislative issues and operational requirements of the Marine Corps. But he is also greatly respected as a dedicated leader and officer who possesses a deep and abiding passion for what it means to be a Marine. He has an unquestionable devotion to duty, impeccable integrity, absolute sound character and is a consummate professional. Through his assignment as the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant, General Corwin has served the Congress and our Nation extraordinarily well.

As Chairman of the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, I have had invaluable insights and great appreciation for the caliber of General Corwin's work. He sets a high standard for others to emulate. I wish General Corwin and his wife, Thanya, and their wonderful family continued success in their future endeavors. Many thanks, General Corwin. Our Nation benefits from your outstanding leadership.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF MONROE COUNTY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Catholic Charities of Monroe County in honor of its 50th anniversary.

The Catholic Charities of Monroe County, which is located in my district, began in 1952 under the leadership of Joseph O'Connor, and was incorporated into the Archdiocese of Detroit in September, 1954. Since its inception, the organization has touched many individuals with their education, health and human services programs.

In their 50 years of service, the Catholic Charities of Monroe County assisted over 142,000 individual requests. The adoption program they created in 1959 placed approximately 800 children with adoptive families. Catholic Charities started numerous counseling programs for separated families, senior citizens, and substance abuse treatment and prevention. Additionally, they helped offenders in the criminal justice system, as well as established services for runaways. Other services included the Local Migrant Program, Head Start, Early Childhood Education, and at-risk youth and adult programs. Through these various programs, one theme is steadily apparent: the Catholic Charities of Monroe County has consistently come to the aid of those most in need.

The Catholic Charities of Monroe County continues to make much needed contributions to their community, and with recent successful fundraisers will do so for many years to come. Indeed, through the dedication of this humanitarian agency, Monroe County is a better place to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commending the Catholic Charities of Monroe County on providing 50 years of exemplary service to the Michigan community and in wishing them many more years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURE DOMESTIC CONTAINER PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2004

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask for unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

I want to bring to the attention of this Congress, legislation that I have introduced today—The Secure Domestic Container Partnership Act of 2004.

This legislation directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to create a pilot program that encourages shipping handlers to seal empty shipping containers after they have unpacked them.

Under this pilot program, the Secretary may authorize a shipper, cargo carrier, freight forwarder, terminal operator, port authority, or labor organization that is a qualified container

handler to secure under a seal approved by the Secretary, a shipping container that is emptied by the person.

It is my strong belief that this program, when fully implemented, will do so much for securing our supply chain, reducing congestion around our ports and intermodal centers while offering our shippers the opportunity to actively participate in securing our home front, our economic supply chain, our transportation infrastructure, and most importantly our communities.

Last month in response to the 9/11 Commission Report, the Maritime and Coast Guard Subcommittee took testimony from panelists responding to the Commission's findings and directives.

A scenario, presented to our committee that characterized "cargo containers as a poor man's missile," struck me as all too real. In southern California, the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles imported 68,000 containers a week in 2003. Combine exports and imports for 2003 and you have 125,000 containers that come in, out and through the most populous region in the country with 17 million residents and growing—and with many high risk targets. Our streets, our communities, our rail infrastructure at any time are supporting full and empty containers.

Containers are as common in southern California as lawyers are in Washington, DC. Look around you and you will know what I mean.

Now, if a container were to be compromised, empty or full, it would call into question the integrity of all containers on our highways and railways that travel along our entire transportation infrastructure and throughout our communities.

Placing a seal on an empty container is a cost effective commonsense solution that further strengthens the partnership between the shipping community and the Department of Homeland Security against the on-going war on terrorism.

Specifically, I would recommend that the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism or C-TPAT administer this program.

This initiative, under the Customs and Border Protection Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security, has a proven track record of doing great things with securing our supply line.

Through the C-TPAT initiative, Customs has been working in partnership with companies and carriers involved in importing goods into the United States.

Companies are asked to assess the vulnerabilities of their supply chains and to work with Customs to address any vulnerability.

In short, the C-TPAT initiative is the equivalent to the trusted traveler program for goods that the FAA is currently implementing for passengers.

The C-TPAT initiative would be an excellent partner and I would encourage the Secretary to take my recommendation.

Like the C-TPAT initiative, the pilot program created by enactment of The Secure Domestic Container Partnership Act of 2004 would be purely voluntary on the part of shippers.

This is a win/win for business, our transportation system, and our communities.

I ask my colleagues to strongly support the "The Secure Domestic Container Partnership Act of 2004."

HONORING THE CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, our founding fathers knew that the vitality of our democracy was contingent on an informed and enlightened citizenry. That is why we must promote quality instruction and teacher preparation in the field of civic education.

On September 20–22 of last year the first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was launched. During the conference, state delegations were created to enact specific local policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools.

I would like to recognize Judith Simpson, the facilitator of the Nevada delegation for her leadership in working to design an action plan to improve civic education in our State.

Nevada was one of six States that were awarded the \$150,000 Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools Grant from the Carnegie and Knight Foundations. Civic education is on the move in Nevada.

I look forward to the success of the Nevada civic education delegation and its participation at the second annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education on December 4–6 of this year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Chairman, on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, I was unable to participate in legislative business because I was attending the funeral of a close friend. Had I been present for legislative business on September 22, 2004, I would have voted "yea" on final passage of H.R. 5025, the Fiscal Year 2005 Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE ANGOSTURA IRRIGATION PROJECT REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Oglala Sioux Tribe Angostura Irrigation Project Rehabilitation and Development Act. This legislation authorizes much-needed efficiency improvements to the irrigation facilities at the Angostura Unit, a Federal Bureau of Reclamation dam on the Cheyenne River in South Dakota. These improvements will restore critical water resources and promote economic development on the nearby Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

This bill provides important resources to the citizens of South Dakota and the Lakota people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. It

authorizes funds to carry out the Bureau of Reclamation's recommended improvements to the irrigation facilities at the Angostura dam. The dam provides substantial economic benefits to many South Dakotans. It provides irrigation to 12,218 acres of land which benefits ranchers and agricultural producers in the area, and it supports an important recreational boating and fishing industry which is enjoyed by many of our citizens.

Until now, however, the Angostura dam has failed to provide any of these economic benefits to the members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe who live just 20 miles downstream of the dam on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The Oglala Sioux Tribe has long relied on the resources provided by the Cheyenne River, which forms part of the northern boundary of its reservation. Long before the dam was constructed as part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Project, the Tribe relied on the river as an important economic resource. Since it was completed, however, the dam has taken an enormous toll on the Tribe. The dam curbed the Cheyenne River's natural flow, reducing water quality on the Reservation, diminishing natural riparian habitats, adversely impacting fish and wildlife and forcing important Tribal agricultural enterprises to shut their doors.

The bill implements the Bureau of Reclamation's preferred alternative in its revised water management plan for the Angostura Unit, which calls for improved efficiencies in irrigation operations that will free up additional water resources for both existing water users and the Tribe. In addition, the legislation would authorize the creation of a trust fund to compensate the Tribe for the devastating economic impacts and loss of natural resources caused by the operation of the dam. The fund will be used to promote economic and infrastructure development on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and enhance the education, health and general welfare of the Oglala Lakota people.

The bill is a companion to S. 1996, which was introduced by Senator DASCHLE on December 9, 2003 and is co-sponsored by Senators JOHNSON and INOUE. S. 1996 was recently reported favorably to the Senate by the Committee on Indian Affairs.

I hope that my distinguished colleagues will take up and pass this legislation quickly. It will allow all of us in South Dakota to better use our natural resources, while keeping our solemn commitment to deal fairly and honorably with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Lakota people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. I ask for your help and support in moving it forward.

HONORING GREG RENKER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor an individual that has been awarded the Electronic Retailing Association's (ERA) 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is given to individuals who have been instrumental in shaping the electronic retailing industry and who have elevated the significance and stature of both direct response and the association.

Mr. Greg Renker is a founding principal of Guthy-Renker, an infomercial studio that has evolved into one of the world's largest television response-driven companies. Mr. Renker is personally responsible for productions, new business development and business affairs, and, with partner Bill Guthy, supervises the overall direction of the company.

As a founder of ERA and an industry pioneer, Advertising Age magazine named Mr. Renker to its "Marketing 100" list for his achievements in the direct response television industry. In addition, Mr. Renker has been spotlighted by Fortune Magazine on its list of "America's Smartest Young Entrepreneurs" and also was honored as one of Inc.'s "Entrepreneurs of the Year." Currently, he serves as a permanent Chairman Emeritus of ERA and is active in a multitude of industry-wide initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Greg Renker on his successes and on his dedication to the electronic retailing industry. I know that he will continue to be a strong presence in both the industry as well as in his local community. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and congratulate him on this well-deserved award.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WOMEN ATHLETES AT THE 2004 SUMMER OLYMPICS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the amazing achievements of the women athletes at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece. In particular, I want to celebrate the success of the United States Women's Soccer Team, who made us proud by winning a gold medal at the 2004 Olympics, beating Brazil 2-1 in overtime, on August 26, 2004.

Every woman on the Olympic soccer team deserves our recognition and congratulations: Shannon Boxx, Brandi Chastain, Joy Fawcett, Julie Foudy, Mia Hamm, Angela Hucles, Kristine Lilly, Kristin Luckenbill, Kate Markgraf, Heather Mitts, Heather O'Reilly, Cindy Parlow, Christie Rampone, Cat Reddick, Briana Scury, Lindsay Tarpley, Aly Wagner, and Abby Wambach.

These women have become some of the most famous athletic role models on earth. They have taught our children that if you work hard and you believe in yourself, you can accomplish anything. Indeed, these women are helping to fundamentally change perceptions about athletics. It is no surprise that our little girls look up to these strong, motivated women for inspiration. But to also see little boys wearing jerseys emblazoned with the names of their favorite women players is a wonderful sight.

The accomplishments of this generation of women athletes demonstrates the profound impact that Title IX has had on increasing opportunities in sports for women and girls. Title IX, part of the Education Amendments of 1972 requiring that public schools and colleges provide equal educational and athletic opportunities for girls and women, has unquestionably been a tremendous success. The members of the U.S. Women's Soccer team have been

tireless advocates for Title IX. Their efforts have helped the Women's Caucus and our male colleagues to preserve and strengthen this historic law.

It is important for girls to have every opportunity to succeed, especially when it comes to athletics. That is why the leadership of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues has introduced H.R. 4994, the High School Athletics Accountability Act. This bill will require schools to report to the Department of Education basic data on the number of female and male students in their athletic programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. Currently high schools are not required to disclose any data on equity in sports, making it difficult for schools and parents to ensure fairness in athletics programs. Better information can help high schools and parents of schoolchildren foster fairness in athletic opportunities for girls and boys.

As a testament to the power of these women, their fan appreciation tour, which kicks off in Rochester, on September 25, sold out all 14,000 seats in just minutes. I have introduced a bill in Congress, H. Res. 373, which supports the reestablishment of the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA). Hopefully, some day the WUSA will return, to give every amazing female soccer player the professional athletic opportunities in the United States they so deeply deserve.

Thank you to all the women Olympic athletes for transforming the lives and attitudes of today's young women, and for those of generations to come. We all know that girls who compete in sports perform better in school, are physically healthier and have a stronger self-esteem. Our girls have learned that sweat is sexy, brawn is beautiful and a little dirt never hurt anyone. You have truly given us all a whole lot more to celebrate, work hard for and dream about.

HONORING DEDICATION OF FRANKLIN PARKER PRESERVE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Jersey Conservation Foundation's official dedication of the Franklin Parker Preserve—the largest, private land acquisition in our state on Friday, September 24, 2004.

The 9,400-acre Franklin Parker Preserve includes 1,500 acres of reservoirs and thousands of acres of wetland and upland forests, including 600 acres of Atlantic white cedar swamp, and serves as a critical link in connecting state-owned forests.

The Preserve has exceptional habitat for native and endangered species including bald eagle and the Pine Barrens tree frog.

The site will be named in honor of Franklin E. Parker III, the first Chair of the Pinelands Commission from 1979 to 1988, who has been a long-time supporter of environmental causes throughout the country, our state and my Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Franklin Parker, and so many individuals and groups that have made the Parker Preserve a reality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, from September 9th to September 15th, I was unavoidably detained in my district due to the death of my father. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote numbers 440, 441, 442, 443, 446, 447, 448, 449, 452, 453, 454, and 456. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote numbers 438, 439, 444, 445, 450, 451, and 455.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MURPHY. Due to official business relating to the devastating damage caused by Hurricane Ivan in my Congressional District, I was not present in the chamber on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, and was regrettably unable to cast my vote on rollcall No. 461, No. 462, No. 463, No. 464, and No. 465.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 461; "yea" on rollcall No. 462; "yea" on rollcall No. 463; "no" on rollcall No. 464; and "yea" on rollcall No. 465.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. V.
SIMPSON TURNER, SR.**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. V. Simpson Turner, Sr. for the 39th anniversary of his pastoral leadership and spiritual guidance of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and the Brooklyn Community.

Dr. Turner earned his Bachelor's Degree at Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts; a Master's of Religious Education at Biblical Seminary of New York City; a Master's of Sacred Theology at New York Theological Seminary; and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University School of Theology in Administration. He is married to Laura B. Turner, an outstanding educator and a New York State Certified Secondary School Principal. They have two children: Reverend Vivian R. Pittman and Reverend V. Simpson Turner, Jr., both of whom are ordained ministers at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church; son-in-law, Deacon/Trustee Jerald Pittman; daughter-in-law, Lady Selena Turner; grandchildren, Kenya and Nathan Botley, Jerald Ali Pittman, Joelle Pittman, V. Simpson Turner III and Seteena Eliza Laura Turner; and great grandchildren, Rasaun Botley and Vivian Botley.

Dr. Turner has been active in numerous civic and charitable organizations. He has served on the Board of Trustees for Gordon College, the Baptist Home for the Elderly, the Brooklyn Public Library, and Baptist Medical Center. He has served as the Chairman of the

Department of Communications for the Council of Churches in New York City and as a former president of the North American Baptist Fellowship of the Baptist World Alliance and the Baptist Minister's Conference of Greater New York. He was also a former member of the Board of Directors for Religion in American Life, a former member of the Brooklyn Borough President's Community Board #3, and was elected to the Board of Directors of the New York Bible Society in New York City in 1990. More recently, in June 2002, Dr. Turner was elected Secretary of the 7,000 members Hampton University Minister's Conference. Finally, he was an Adjunct Professor on Urban Concerns at Alliance Theological Seminary in New York.

For his efforts, Dr. Turner has been honored by many community groups including the City of New York; the Bureau of Child Welfare; the United Builders Association; the Boy Scouts of America; and the YMCA. The Governor of New York appointed him to the New York State Commission on Health Education and Illness Prevention. In 1990, Dr. Turner was appointed Chairman of the Billy Graham Crusade in New York City where the Great Lawn in Central Park held the largest crowd ever to attend a Billy Graham meeting in North America. Also, in the spring of 1990, as editor of the Baptist Progress, Dr. Turner received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for meritorious service in writing.

Dr. Turner produces and directs a weekly radio show known as "The Black Religious Experience" as well as a public affairs Cable TV program known as "The Public Wants To Know." He is the author of "Compassion for the City," which is used throughout the country as a textbook for those going into urban ministry. Dr. Turner has been instrumental in implementing several important community programs and resources such as a Homework Center, a High School Equivalency Program, a referral service to New York City Technical College, a Senior Services and handicapped Bus Ministry, a Radio Ministry, a Shut-In and Outreach Ministry, a Carillons Ministry, a "Sing, Spell, Read and Write" Educational Ministry, and a Soup Kitchen Ministry. Several college graduates began their college careers at Mt. Carmel as part of the then NYC Community College extension, which Dr. Turner helped to operate.

On January 4, 2004, Dr. Turner celebrated his 39th Anniversary as Pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. He had a vision to combine his church and an apartment building into a Church and Educational complex. In the spring of 1993, Dr. Turner realized his vision of building affordable housing. Today, the 78 units, known as the Mt. Carmel Town Houses are occupied by new homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. V. Simpson Turner, Sr. has been a tireless advocate for his community and a spiritual leader for 39 years at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

NEBRASKA'S LEADERSHIP IN DESIGNING A PLAN TO IMPROVE CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. TOM OSBORNE

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, we should be very proud of our constitutional heritage, and feel comforted by the fact that we live in the world's oldest constitutional democracy. We celebrate Constitution Week knowing that the principles of a free democracy are emulated by nations throughout the world. It is extremely important that our young people understand and appreciate the time-honored principles that the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and other documents embody. For this reason, effective instruction in civics and government in our schools is necessary.

Last year, the first Congressional Conference on Civic Education was held. One of the positive outcomes of this conference was the establishment of state delegations to return to the state to enact specific policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools. I would like to recognize Nebraska's delegation for their leadership in working to design a plan to improve civic education in our state.

Nebraska's plan will result in the formation of the Civics Nebraska Partnership, a coalition of educators, public officials, agencies, and organizations committed to improving the level of civic learning in our state. Initially, Civics Nebraska will measure civic aptitude and attitudes of Nebraskans and provide a clearinghouse of resources for classroom teachers. It is hoped that the partnership will help bridge the gap that sometimes exists between the education and government sectors when it comes to civics education.

I look forward to the success of Civics Nebraska and want to recognize the efforts of those who are working hard to improve civics and government education.

RECOGNIZING OLYMPIAN MELISSA MORRISON

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kannapolis, North Carolina native Melissa Morrison. I want to congratulate Melissa for her Bronze medal in the 100 meter hurdles at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Melissa started running track in the seventh grade because a cousin, April Graham, made it look easy and fun. A few short years later Melissa was running track for A.L. Brown High School, and collecting four state titles in the process. She next attended Appalachian State University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, and receiving All-American honors in both the 55 and 100 meter hurdles.

Melissa's first Olympic experience was at the 2000 Sydney, Australia games. In Sydney, Melissa was the only American woman to win a medal in the 100 meter hurdles, winning

bronze with a time of 12.76 seconds in the final. With her Athens repeat this year, Melissa became the only two-time American medalist in the 100 meter hurdles.

In the last couple of years Melissa has fought through serious adversity, including nagging injuries and personal tragedy. However, through unyielding determination and support from her loved ones, she never gave up. In the race where Melissa captured her second Olympic medal, she exemplified her never quit attitude. Melissa collided with two hurdles but continued to fight on. In fact, she addressed these hardships and gave us insight to her strong character by saying, "Mental strength got me through there and got me a bronze medal again this year."

Mr. Speaker, while I have only touched on a fraction of her accomplishments, I proudly join her friends, family, and teammates in congratulating Melissa's outstanding athletic achievements. I wish Melissa continued success both on and off the track, and would also like to congratulate her on the forthcoming marriage to fiancé Josephus Howard.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEE ELWOOD GILLIS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lee Elwood Gillis and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as the District 63 representative to the Colorado House of Representatives. A representative since 1981, Lee is a dedicated public servant and leader in his community and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Lee was born in Texas and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business from West Texas State University before going on to serve in the Texas National Guard and the U.S. Army Rangers. He is a member of the National Federation of Independent Business and Director of the Heritage Savings and Loan from 1977 to the present. Lee began his public service career in 1980, when he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and subsequently reelected in 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, and 1990. Serving the people of Baca, Bent, and Otero County in District 63, Lee has long been an advocate of lowering property taxes on agricultural land, and establish an economic development office in Southeast Colorado. He served on the Game, Fish & Parks, Education, Appropriations, House Services, and Joint Budget Committees during his legislative career.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Lee Elwood Gillis has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his country and the people of Colorado as a State Representative. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service, Lee, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

CALLING FOR THE SUSPENSION OF SUDAN'S MEMBERSHIP ON THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 137.

The human rights violations in Darfur are reaching a crisis point. Since the beginning of the conflict in early 2003, more than 30,000 innocent civilians have been murdered, more than 400 villages have been destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced from their homes.

Tragically, the situation in Darfur has escalated from a rebellion by local militias into a full-scale ethnic cleansing campaign. The government in Khartoum has met this crisis with deliberate neglect at best, and direct support at worst. Congress rightly called this brutal and systematic slaughter a "genocide" in a resolution passed on July 22.

On July 30th, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the Sudanese government to immediately fulfill its obligations to facilitate humanitarian relief, take steps to disarm the Janjaweed militias, and cooperate with an independent investigation of human rights violations in Darfur. However, it is time for the international community to make its authority felt through actions, not just words.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights binds member nations together in a pact to uphold universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Government of Sudan has broken this pledge and must be held accountable for its crime against humanity. I therefore urge Congress to call for the immediate suspension of Sudan from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 137.

IN HONOR OF DR. TREENA LIVINGSTON ARINZEH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Treena Livingston Arinze for her outstanding work in the field of stem cell research. On September 9, 2003, President Bush presented her with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

Dedicated to researching stem cells, Dr. Arinze has made revolutionary findings that may lead to procedures that help people recover from a variety of diseases, spinal cord injuries, and bone and cartilage damage. Dr. Arinze has earned the respect of her colleagues and established herself as a scientist by publishing influential papers in the *Journal of Biomedical Materials Research* and the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*.

The Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers is the highest honor a

young researcher can receive. Since 1996, the White House has acknowledged the achievements of such talented professionals. Each year, eight federal agencies nominate promising researchers and the winners receive up to five years of funding for their future work. The sole recipient from New Jersey, Dr. Arinze received a \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Born and raised in Jersey City, Dr. Arinze is currently a professor of biomedical engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark. In addition to her research projects, Dr. Arinze devotes her time to developing new undergraduate and graduate programs in tissue engineering, as well as creating community outreach programs for high school students in New Jersey and New York.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Treena Livingston Arinze, a trailblazer in the field of stem cell research. I applaud her for her exceptional achievements. New Jersey and our nation will greatly benefit from her groundbreaking work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CARL BLEDSOE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Carl Bledsoe and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as the Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. A state representative since 1973, Carl is a dedicated public servant and leader in his community and I am honored to recognize his service before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

A resident of Aroya, Colorado, Carl graduated from Kit Carson High School in 1941 and served in the U.S. Army Air Corp from 1942 to 1945. He later earned a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from Colorado State University. Carl began his impressive thirty-two year public service career in 1958 as secretary of the Lincoln County Stockmen's Association. He served 12 years on the Kit Carson Board of Education, including two years as President. Carl was the President of Cheyenne County Farm Bureau from 1962 to 1964, and the Colorado Cattlemen's Association in 1967. He has also served as a member of various organizations like the National Western Stock Show Association, the Colorado Housing Inc, Board, the Colorado State Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Colorado State Fiscal Policy Committee.

Carl was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1972 becoming the third member of his family to serve in the Colorado General Assembly. During his seventeen years as a legislator, Carl chaired the House Committee on Finance, the Legislative Audit Committee, the Western Region of the Council of State Governments, and was the vice-chairman of the International Trade Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures and most recently Speaker of the House for the last five years. During his seventeen years of service he received many awards such as the Outstanding Rural Legislator of the Year, and the American Legislative Exchange Conference's Outstanding State Legislator award.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Speaker Bledsoe has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his country and the people of Colorado as the Speaker of the House in the Colorado House of Representatives. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service, Carl, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

FORMER U.S. CONGRESSMEN'S
MONITORING DELEGATION TO
UKRAINE JULY REPORT—EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting the following article for the RECORD.

Significant irregularities and improprieties have been found in the on-going presidential campaign in Ukraine by an election monitoring delegation of former Members of Congress in the Kharkiv, Poltava, and Sumy oblasts.

Five former U.S. Congressmen—John Conlan (R-AZ), Arlen Erdahl (R-MN), Jack Hightower (D-TX), Gregory Laughlin (R-TX), Andrew Maguire (D-NJ), and Tom Sawyer (D-OH)—traveled to Ukraine on July 25–31, 2004 to monitor presidential election campaign activities in the region. The communities visited were: Kupiansk, Merefa, and Vovchansk in the Kharkiv oblast; Chutove, Dykanka and Karlivka in the Poltava oblast; and Lebedyn, Okhtyrka and Trostianets in the Sumy oblast. These former congressmen were registered by the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Ukraine and accorded all the rights and privileges provided to foreign observers by Ukraine's law on presidential elections.

Ukraine is a signatory of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and therefore welcomes international observers to help secure a free and fair election. The congressmen's election monitoring activities included meetings with representatives of the main political parties, Ukrainian government officials, Central Election Committee, and U.S. officials in Kyiv. In the regions, the congressmen met with local government officials, representatives of NGOs, political parties, the media, and citizens, who shared their views and experiences of the political process in their respective communities.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE FIRST DELEGATION TO
THE KHARKIV, POLTAVA, AND SUMY OBLASTS

Generally, in the communities visited, local officials were very cooperative and generously shared their time and opinions with the delegation. Local officials provided space for meetings and assisted in extending invitations to representatives of political parties, media, and NGOs to meet with the delegation. The delegation does note, however, that there were occasions when opposition parties were not informed of the meetings and, thus, were denied an opportunity to express their views and have their respective cases heard.

In conversations with participants in the meetings attended and in conversations with ordinary Ukrainian citizens, the delegation was appalled to find that an overwhelming number do not expect the outcome of the election to be fairly decided. Those that hold this view often reply that the outcome has

already been determined and that the vote count will support that determination. Independent polls verify that around 70 percent of the population believes this. That reinforces the view that every effort must be made by observers to ensure that the vote count is accurate and fair.

While the delegation cannot investigate the allegations made, it does note with deep concern the repeated allegations of the systematic use of the government's administrative resources to bring pressure upon voters to support the candidate endorsed by government authorities. These reports are too numerous, consistent, and from too many different locations to be set aside; in fact they appear to the delegation to constitute a pattern of officially sanctioned political activity by government employees that is in violation of Ukraine's law on presidential elections.

The delegation is very concerned about these reports and appeals to the Ukrainian government to ensure that all local government officials strictly adhere to the law. Allegations include: threats regarding loss of jobs predominate; police preventing buses and automobiles from traveling to opposition rallies; forcing government workers, teachers, and hospital workers to sign petitions for pro-government candidate, Viktor Yanukovych; forcing regional councils to pass resolutions in support of Yanukovych; teachers and agricultural workers given quotas to collect signatures for Yanukovych, under threat to lose vacation time or jobs; students pressured to distribute Yanukovych literature; even patients have been threatened with discharge from hospitals and denial of medical services if they fail to sign and pledge to vote for Yanukovych.

In every community the delegation visited, they were greeted with hope and anticipation of a brighter tomorrow. They welcomed contact with the wider world and were anxious to host foreign visitors to show off their country and its potential. They deserve an opportunity to go to the polls and freely express their views and to be secure in the knowledge that all their votes are counted accurately in accordance with the law of Ukraine.

The delegation is a fact-finding mission and will report its findings to Ukraine's Central Election Commission, the U.S. Government, European governments, international organizations and the public through release to the mass media. The delegation does not support any candidate or political party and is only interested in helping ensure that the presidential election is free and fair.

Programming is organized by the U.S.–Ukraine Foundation (USUF), in partnership with the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress (USAFMC) and is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Foundation's second delegation traveled in August to the Cherkasy, Kyiv, and Kirovohrad oblasts and also included parliamentarians from Spain and the Netherlands. The third delegation, comprised of congressmen and a former member of the German Bundestag, traveled to the Kherson region during the week of September 19–25, 2004 to observe election campaign activities in the Kherson, Mykolayiv, and Zaporizhzhya oblasts.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE
LAWRENCE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Michelle Lawrence and thank her for her exceptional contributions to her community and the State of Colorado as a Jefferson County Commissioner. A two term commissioner, Michelle is a dedicated public servant and leader in her community, and I am honored to recognize her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Michelle is a Colorado native who has lived most of her life in Jefferson County. She is the co-owner of a Jefferson county business that had been in her family for over 48 years. Michelle served in the Colorado legislature from 1990 to 1994, and is a former member of the board of directors of the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. She has been active in several local community organizations such as the Arvada Historical Society and the Arvada center for the Arts & Humanities and as a member of the Jeffco Transportation Task Force.

After leaving the General Assembly, Michelle continued her exemplary public service record by serving as a Jefferson County commissioner. Currently she is the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and the Law Enforcement Authority Board. She also represents the county on the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District Board. Michelle has been appointed as an alternate to the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the Jefferson Economic Council, and most recently the Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Michelle Lawrence has ceaselessly dedicated her time and efforts to serving her country and the people of Colorado as a Commissioner for Jefferson County. I am honored to bring her hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service, Michelle, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING THE BROOKSVILLE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
(BERT)

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the members of the Brooksville Emergency Response Team, also known as BERT.

In the wake of Hurricane Charley's devastating visit to Florida, these remarkable individuals answered the call of duty. On the morning of August 14, 2004 at 6:45 a.m. these BERT operatives sprung into action and began to rebuild areas of the Fifth Congressional District left in shambles. Because of their efforts, the communities of Poinciana, Calooso, Lake Village, Lake Wales, Bascon,

Highland Park, Frostproof, and Lake Hamilton received relief at a critical time of need. The BERT team worked to reconstruct Poinciana's fire department and assisted with firefighting duties for the community. In addition, the team worked on debris clean-up, directed traffic, and assisted in damage assessment activities throughout the area. In the end, the BERT team accomplishments included 336 work hours removing trees from residences and roadways; 14 hours traffic control; and deliveries of 1,250 bags of ice, 450 cases of water and 150 prepared meals to hungry citizens.

I would like to express my gratitude for the BERT team's service. Their actions demonstrated the dedication, selflessness, and sacrifice of the human spirit that emerges from rubble of Mother Nature's fury. I am proud to represent the Fifth Congressional District of Florida, where members of the heroic Brooksville Emergency Response Team call home.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCES
OWENS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the First Lady of Colorado, Frances Owens. Frances is a compassionate and intelligent woman whose dedication and commitment to her family and fellow citizens is renowned and unprecedented. Long before she became Colorado's First Lady, Frances was an education advocate for children and a dedicated servant to her fellow Coloradans. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize her many accomplishments.

Frances is a Colorado native, spending her childhood in Texas before returning to Colorado to receive a degree in Art History from the University of Colorado at Denver. She began campaigning for former Senator Bill Armstrong in the late 1970's and served as the Associate Director of the Colorado Council on Economic Education. Frances, who is married to current Governor Bill Owens for twenty-nine years, has three children: Monica, Mark, and Brett. She is actively involved in her children's academic careers.

On January 12, 1999, Frances became the First Lady of Colorado, where she has made important strides for Colorado in public service by actively volunteering her time to various charitable projects and organizations throughout the state and by serving on boards such as the Children's Hospital Cardiac Care Center, and the Colorado Opera. Frances is a dedicated advocate for children; her involvement crosses into many arenas, including support of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, Samaritan's Purse-Operation Christmas Child, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Colorado Historical Society. Frances currently serves as the Honorary Chair for Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Day, where she continues to champion important issues for Colorado's children. Frances widely promotes literacy and children's programs like the annual Easter Egg Roll. Her latest honor, given by the Republican Women Leadership Forum, was their Humanitarian Award for civic involvement.

Colorado's First Lady is involved in many long-term projects that promote the great diversity and vibrant culture of Colorado. She chairs the Colorado Commemorative Quarter Advisory Commission for the design of Colorado's new quarter, which is planned for release in 2006. Frances has also been instrumental in the privately funded renovation and restoration efforts of the Executive Residence, which was originally constructed in 1908.

Mr. Speaker, Frances Owens is a tremendous asset to the State of Colorado. Her impeccable record of dedication and service throughout her life is a high standard for any public servant to match. Frances' devotion to the State of Colorado has advanced Colorado and certainly made it a better place to live and raise a family. I want to thank Frances for all of her hard work, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ROY BRAUNSTEIN,
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS
UNION, AFL-CIO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Roy Braunstein, Legislative Director of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU).

Roy was hired in June 1973 with the United States Postal Service, and worked as both a Distribution Clerk and CMU Clerk during his postal career. He will retire on November 6, 2004.

The APWU has more than 300,000 members in every city, town and hamlet in the United States and is the world's largest postal union. Roy was first elected in 1980 as the APWU Legislative Aide, and was elected Legislative Director in 1992. He was elected nine times by the APWU membership.

Before he came to Washington, D.C. in 1960, Roy was active in the New Jersey Shore Area Local where he served as Legislative Director and Shop Steward. He was also the New Jersey State APWU Legislative Director and Editor. He served in community affairs as a member of the Barnegat, New Jersey Board of Education for three years and as a member of the Ocean County New Jersey Mental Health Board.

In Washington, Roy served as a lobbyist for the APWU and has worked on a number of issues important to the membership. During his tenure at the APWU, Roy worked to secure passage of the Hatch Act, legislation granting greater political freedom for postal and federal employees. Roy also played a key role in the eight year battle for the Family and Medical Leave Act which President Clinton signed into law in 1993.

Over the years, Roy worked diligently to help win passage of the Federal Employees Retirement System Act, the Spouse Equity Act, the Postal Employees Safety Enhancement Act, the Veterans Employment Opportunity Act, and many other legislative initiatives to help working families.

Roy fought to protect the viability of the Postal Service. He was a leader in the fight against Postal Privatization, and the move-

ment to take the Postal Service off-budget during the 1960s in an effort to stop congressional attacks on the Postal Service. APWU is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, and Roy worked closely with other labor leaders for the goals of this nation's working men and women.

Roy's wife of 36 years, Marilyn, is also an APWU member, and they are the proud parents of two young men, Rick and Daniel. He has an A.A. Degree from Kinsborough Community College in Brooklyn, New York, and a B.A. Degree from Richmond College in Staten Island, New York.

Roy will be retiring to the Phoenix, Arizona area where his sons are living. He plans to retain full APWU membership, and to become actively involved with the Phoenix Metro Area Local (Arizona) and the Arizona Postal Workers Union relating to legislative issues. He also will be spending time traveling and relaxing with family and friends.

HONORING LATE REPRESENTATIVE
WILLIAM NATCHER

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to a remarkable man of this House, the late William Huston Natcher, on the occasion of The Kentucky Museum and Library's opening of the William H. Natcher Political Collection, a compilation of artifacts from his storied life and career.

Congressman Natcher served in this body, preceding me as representative of the Second District of Kentucky, from August 1, 1953 until his death on March 29, 1994, having cast an astonishing 18,401 consecutive votes, a record most historians believe will never be matched. Through the years, he earned a reputation as an exceptionally hardworking and honest public servant, becoming one of the most highly-respected and influential members of congress in recent memory.

As years passed and his congressional seniority increased, Natcher received several important committee appointments, namely within the powerful House Appropriations Committee. From 1961 to 1979, he chaired the Appropriations District of Columbia subcommittee, exercising control over spending in the Nation's capital. He later moved on to chair the subcommittee on labor, health and human services, influencing major legislation to advance education and promote public welfare throughout the 1980's. He was elected Chairman of the full House Appropriations Committee in 1992, a position he held until his death in 1994.

Congressman Natcher became a legend not only for his effectiveness as a legislator but for his uncompromising dedication to the responsibilities of public service. Not only did he cast an unbroken chain of roll call votes over a 41-year career, he also exercised a sincere reverence for the opinions of his constituents, personally reading and responding to his own mail. Though he attained a position of national influence, he maintained a modest, responsible lifestyle, never accepting political contributions, driving himself to and from work in his aged Chevrolet. He was a model citizen-legislator worthy of an honored place in our Nation's history.

After several years of processing, the William H. Natcher Political Collection will open to the public Friday, October 1, 2004, at the Kentucky Library and Museum on the campus of Western Kentucky University. The collection will display volumes of correspondences, photographs, awards and memorabilia, accumulated throughout Congressman Natcher's distinguished life and career.

I would like to extend the collective gratitude of the U.S. House of Representatives to the Natcher Family and Western Kentucky University for assembling a collection that will allow future generations to appreciate and learn from Congressman Natcher's exceptional life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PETE LARSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mourn the death of Pete Larson, who was killed in an all-terrain-vehicle accident while conducting land health assessments for the Bureau of Land Management near Grand Junction, Colorado. Pete was an active, enthusiastic individual, who loved his job and was a loyal friend to Colorado's Western Slope. I am honored to stand here today before this body of Congress and this nation to celebrate his life and recognize his many accomplishments.

Pete married Rita Graham in 1966, and they raised their family in Grand Junction, where Pete was very active in the community. He taught science for twenty-nine years at Grand Junction High School where his natural curiosity and wide-ranging interests allowed him to connect with students of every personality. His students recall his enthusiasm for explaining chemistry, physics, biology and botany to generations of Grand Junction students.

Pete was always ready to help a friend or a stranger and willingly shared his knowledge of the environment. He knew its plants and its animal inhabitants, its soils and its water, its weather and its moods. Pete's love of the land and the people of Mesa County led him to continue his service to others as he worked to combat tamarisk while working at the Colorado National Monument. He was instrumental in creating the Tamarisk Coalition and served on their board of directors. After ten years of dedication to the National Park Service, Pete took a job as a biological technician for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field office in Grand Junction where he worked for three years before his unfortunate accident on August 2, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call the attention of this body of Congress to the life of Pete Larson. He always had a bright outlook on life and his curiosity and love of learning inspired those who knew him. The Grand Junction community and the State of Colorado are a better place as the result of his many contributions. Pete was a great man who dedicated his life to helping others, and I know that he will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Rita, his two daughters Kristen Kasel and Kari Larson, and his son Tor Larson at this difficult time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STOUGHTON HOSPITAL

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Stoughton Hospital located in Stoughton, Wisconsin. Since 1904, Stoughton Hospital has provided high quality individual healthcare to the people of Stoughton and the surrounding communities.

Stoughton Hospital was founded by Dr. Michael Iverson in 1904 as the Stoughton Surgical Hospital. The hospital was purchased by the city in 1924 upon Dr. Iverson's retirement. Over the years, the hospital has seen many renovations and improvements, but Stoughton Hospital's core values have remained the same. The Norwegian born and educated Dr. Iverson was committed to a small hospital that offered personalized care to each of its patients. Today, a century later, Stoughton Hospital is still firmly committed to that same philosophy.

The hospital offers a variety of services to the community in its facility that include an urgent care complex, intensive care unit, medical and surgical inpatient units and both outpatient surgery and rehabilitation facilities. At Stoughton Hospital, state-of-the-art care is provided for each patient. In addition to providing care for community members, the hospital also meets the needs of the community by offering community education courses and service programs.

Today, I proudly join the Stoughton Hospital staff and volunteers, residents of Stoughton and the surrounding communities in celebrating Stoughton Hospital's 100 years of quality healthcare and personalized service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2004, and September 21, 2004, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 441, 442, 443, 457, 458, 459, and 460.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB NERO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to mourn the passing of Bob Nero from my home state of Colorado. Bob, who recently retired as the head of Public Relations for the University of Colorado system, passed away at the age of fifty-nine after battling pancreatic cancer. He was known for his fun-loving nature, excellent wit,

and abiding sense of professionalism. As his family and friends mourn this loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Bob and pay tribute to him for his contributions to the state of Colorado.

Bob worked for the University of Colorado for nineteen years, most recently as the Assistant Vice President of Institutional Relations. He was an effective and professional communicator who passionately worked to build an understanding of the University of Colorado's mission and its educational contributions to the state.

However, Bob's legacy reaches far beyond the University of Colorado. He was a multi-talented individual who had a diverse career working as a consultant to the cast of *The Lives of the Rich and Famous* in Europe; as an assistant editor in the reference book division of Thomas Y. Crowell Publishing Company; and as the West Coast Bureau chief for the New York Herald. Earlier in his career, Bob served as an oral historian at the American Film Institute and was the Director of Communications at UCLA's Graduate School of Management.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Bob Nero, though take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of dedication that Bob has left with us. I am honored to pay tribute to such a devoted public servant, one who has given many years in service to the state of Colorado. I know that many throughout our state who had the chance to benefit from his experience and dedication will miss Bob Nero. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family during this time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE LINDY BOGGS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the former Representative and Ambassador Corrine Claiborne "Lindy" Boggs on the acceptance of her portrait into the House collection. While I did not have the pleasure of serving with Lindy Boggs, I am a great admirer of hers. Her Southern charm is infamous. Her legislative and political knowledge is vast. As a champion of education, women's issues, and civil rights, her accomplishments are many and need not be enumerated. Indeed, it is impossible not to admire, to like, and to respect Lindy Boggs, as we are all beneficiaries of her advocacy.

However, I do want to highlight that she shared my commitment to this institution and a love of history. Lindy Boggs believed that a recorded history was important and helped Americans understand the institution of Congress and the House. She successfully worked to establish the Office of the Historian in the House, which was created to collect, preserve, and interpret the documents of the House for Congress, the public and the press. In addition, she chaired the Joint Committee on Bicentennial Arrangements. It is also noteworthy that she served on my Committee, the Committee on House Administration, before taking a seat on the Committee on Appropriations.

As an ex-officio member of the House Fine Arts Board, which serves as the clearinghouse for donations of House-related works of art, furniture and artifacts, I am pleased to support the acceptance of the portrait of Lindy Boggs by the House. I would also like to acknowledge Jan Schoonmaker and his efforts with the Lindy Boggs Portrait Committee in making this project a reality. This House has previously recognized the many contributions of Mrs. Boggs by naming a room in the Capitol in honor of her, and I think it is only fitting that the portrait will be hung in The Corrine Clairborne Boggs Room.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating former Representative and Ambassador Lindy Boggs on her receipt of this honor.

REGARDING CARY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cary Medical Center not only for 80 years of community health care services to Aroostook County but for receiving the National Job Corps Association's 2004 Alpha Award in the Community Category.

The Cary Medical Center has played a unique and integral role in providing health services to the communities in Northern Maine. The Cary Medical Center offers a variety of excellent services to the people of Aroostook County. Its dietary department is one of the best in the country. Cary also has established itself as a leader in Community Health Education and Disease Prevention programs.

The Cary Medical Center also has superior veterans' services. The VA outpatient clinic was the first facility of its type in the nation, providing outpatient medical care for Aroostook veterans since 1987. It has over 6,000 patient visits per year.

The Cary Medical Center has been recognized by many organizations for its excellent service. In 1998, Cary Medical Center earned Accreditation with Commendation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, the highest rating attainable, placing Cary among the top 15 percent of hospitals in the nation in reference to nationally established guidelines on quality patient care.

More recently, the Center received the National Job Corps Association's 2004 Alpha Award in the Community Category. This is an extraordinary achievement: Cary Medical Center will be one of 6 winners out of 107 national nominations. The Alfa Award is given to individuals, organizations and employers who are dedicated to helping Job Corps students. CMC manages the Certified Nurses Assistant program for the Loring Job Corps. The hospital provides both classroom and clinical instruction for students who select the vocation.

Beyond excellent programs and the highest honors, perhaps the greatest achievement of all is the duration of service CMC has given to the community of Aroostook County. 80 years is a very long time to be serving people, and Northern Maine is surely a better place be-

cause of their contributions. I thank them for their dedication and service to the people of Maine, and commend them for this most recent award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DON SHEPPARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Don Sheppard, a dedicated Colorado State Patrol Officer from Cortez, Colorado who recently retired after twenty-one years of service to the people of my state. His hard work and love for protecting his community over the years serves as a shining example of the character of our nation's law enforcement officers. It is my privilege to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize the career of Don Sheppard.

Don has compiled an impressive record in helping others. During Vietnam, he served in the U.S. Air Force as a communications specialist working with computers and cryptography. In 1979, he joined the Montezuma County Sheriff's office and then the Dolores County Sheriff's office. He attended the Colorado State Patrol Academy in 1983, and upon completion was assigned to the Cortez office of Troop 5A where he has served for twenty-one years.

Don has received many accolades throughout his law enforcement career for his professional and courteous service. He was an active, hard working officer who was responsible for removing more drunk drivers from the roads than any other trooper in 5A. He still holds the DUI arrest record for his area, ninety-one in a single year.

Mr. Speaker, Don Sheppard has dedicated his career to ensuring the safety and well being of Colorado citizens. His presence in the continuing efforts to fight drunk driving are especially commendable given that he has taken time away from his family and friends to face uncertain danger and unpredictable consequences. I am honored to stand here before this body and recognize the efforts of such an industrious public servant who will be sorely missed in Colorado. Good luck in your retirement Don, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF NORTHWEST COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AS IT CELEBRATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING IN JACKSON, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Northwest Community School District in Jackson, Michigan as it celebrates fifty years of educational excellence in the Jackson community. Our current superintendent, Dennis Desmarais, as well as the

other administrators, teachers, support personnel, and the 25,000 residents and parents of the school district should all be proud of the lasting contribution they have made in shaping the lives of the young people in the Jackson area.

Northwest School District is one of Jackson County's largest school districts, and was established in 1954 when nineteen tiny districts consolidated to become Northwest Rural Agricultural Schools. By the time R. Willard Kidder became superintendent in 1955, more than 1100 students were enrolled in the district, and were transported to 23 buildings on nine buses. The next year, the school's student council chose the Mounties as the district's mascot, a name which was taken from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, symbolizing fairness, devotion, duty, and exemplary service. It was also at this time that red and black were adopted as the official school colors.

Mr. Kidder took over as Northwest's superintendent in 1956 when the original superintendent, Dr. Warran Randall, accepted a position in Hudson. Under Kidder's leadership, the school grew, the Northwest Junior-Senior High School, now R.W. Kidder Middle School, opened for students in grades five through nine in 1956. Enrollment continued to grow, and peaked at 4,200 when Mr. Kidder retired in 1972. In 1960, Flora List Elementary School opened for 700 students in kindergarten through sixth grade, and three years later, Parnall Elementary School opened on Lansing Avenue to accommodate another 900 students. In 1966, Mr. Kidder hired Mr. Joe Koziol to teach driver's education, and Mr. Koziol continued to serve the district for nearly four more decades as assistant principal in the 1970's and then as the district's superintendent from 1998 till 2002.

On behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend our highest praise and congratulations to the Northwest School District for its awards and academic honors as it marks the 50th anniversary of its founding.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud member of the House Native American Caucus, to celebrate the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

I also extend a warm welcome to the members from Wisconsin's seven tribes: the Oneida, Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, Stockbridge-Munsee, Menominee, Brothertown, and Potawatomi who have traveled to Washington, D.C. this week. They join the nearly twenty-thousand Native Americans, representing the nearly five-hundred state and federally recognized tribes, who have gathered here to celebrate the opening of the museum in the largest tribal gathering in our nation's history.

After 15 years of planning and five years of construction, the National Museum of the American Indian celebrates the traditions, diversity and vitality of America's first people. Located within reach of the Capitol dome on

the National Mall, the museum focuses on the art, history and culture of Native Americans.

The museum's impressive design and extensive exhibits were developed in close consultation with nearly 150 communities from Central and South America, the Caribbean, Canada and the United States.

The pieces in the collection of eight-hundred and fifty thousand items represent a 'living history' that will take visitors on a journey from past to present, and show that Native Americans continue to make vital contributions to contemporary American culture and art.

The National Museum of the American Indian, with its graceful architecture and soaring atrium sited on the country's most ceremonial ground is a long-overdue recognition of the many contributions made by tribe members. I encourage all Americans to join me in honoring them by experiencing the museum and learning more about their heritage.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TED STRICKLAND

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ted Strickland and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as an Adams County Commissioner. A two term county commissioner, Ted is a dedicated public servant and leader in his community, and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Ted was born in Austin, Texas and moved to Colorado in 1954 after serving in the Army. He began working as Vice President of Petroleum Information before his 1966 election to the Colorado State House of Representatives. Two years later he was elected to the Colorado State Senate in 1968 and served twenty-four years, including twelve as the President of the Senate. Ted also served as Lieutenant Governor of Colorado from 1973 to 1975. In 1996, he was elected to the Board of Commissioners of Adams County where he has dedicated his efforts to serving the people of Adams County. Ted currently serves on the E-470 Public Highway and Front Range Airport Authority Boards and is the alternate representative to the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the Adams County Economic Development and Adams County Water Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Ted Strickland has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his country and the people of Colorado as an Adams County Commissioner. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service, Ted, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARTHA "MARTI" YOUNG OF ROSEBURG, OREGON

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to congratulate Martha "Marti" Young of Roseburg, Oregon. The Oregon Commission for Women selected Ms. Young as one of the 2004 Women of Achievement. She will be honored on Saturday, October 2nd, at the 20th Annual Women of Achievement Awards Dinner for her determined advocacy, intelligent leadership, and inspired vision on behalf of low income Oregonians.

Marti Young has an impressive record of public service, with over thirty years of active participation. Wherever there has been innovation, progress, and development in human services in Oregon, she has been in the front ranks. She has been an unstoppable advocate, mobilizing resources and providing services to alleviate poverty and enhance the quality of life for the poor, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Marti Young gets things done—and done well. She has worked with the low income community and community partners to establish Head Start programs, a child care center for low income families, a school lunch program, and an emergency food bank, an energy assistance program, transportation services, shelter programs, and other resources and opportunities vital to the health and well-being of Douglas County.

The world is full of heroes like Marti Young, working every day to make the world a better place. I am pleased to offer her the heartfelt congratulations and warm thanks she so richly merits.

IN HONOR OF WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, as an alumni it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize and commemorate Wheeling Jesuit University as this institution of higher learning celebrates its 50th anniversary.

In 1954 the Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and the Society of Jesus of the Maryland Province forged a partnership to establish the only Catholic university in West Virginia. Since its first class of 90 students and 12 Jesuits, Wheeling Jesuit has grown to include over 1,000 students and five graduate programs.

As one of our nation's youngest Jesuit institutions, Wheeling Jesuit practices and teaches the Ignation tradition of faith, worship, and service. Students at WJU learn to incorporate these principles into their daily lives. Today we may witness the continuation of this tradition among the younger classes which exemplify a lifestyle of hard work and achievement. Wheeling Jesuit University alumni are constantly challenging themselves and others to move at full speed towards perfection in service to their community and the Lord.

In its efforts to provide a valuable learning experience to its student body, Wheeling Jesuit created the Appalachian Institute. The Institute serves as a vehicle to expose students to the issues most important to the surrounding Appalachian region. It is through service opportunities developed by the Institute that students are able to apply their understanding from the classroom to situations real in the world.

Additionally, students attending Wheeling Jesuit are afforded an array of opportunities to participate in public service projects. These activities include a semester-long hunger and homelessness awareness program to educate students of the problems plaguing the local and global community; and the Appalachian Experience Club, which sponsors work experiences in rural West Virginia throughout the academic year.

This small college, by steadfastly adhering to its principles, continues to impact local, national, and global communities. Through an emphasis on academic excellence the college has graduated thousands of students to pursue careers in health care, law, business, education, and the arts. Residing in our nation's 50 states and 147 nations abroad, Wheeling Jesuit Alumni typify the lifestyle of selflessness, achievement, and service that this institution instilled in them years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Wheeling Jesuit University for celebrating their 50th anniversary. Over the years Wheeling Jesuit has provided unsurpassed support and guidance to its students and the Appalachian community, and will continue to impact the lives of its students and the community through its charitable contributions and commitment to public service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHERYL OLSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Cheryl Olson and thank her for her exceptional contributions to her community and the State of Colorado as a Larimer County Commissioner. A two-term commissioner, Cheryl is a dedicated public servant and leader in her community, and I am honored to recognize her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

As a lifelong resident of Fort Collins, Colorado, Cheryl attended Fort Collins High School and earned her bachelor's degree from the Colorado State University. After graduation Cheryl worked at various organizations including: James Johnson & Son, Inc., The Group, Inc., and Commercial Investment Team, Inc. She began her public service career in 1996, when she was elected to the Board of Commissioners of Larimer County where she has dedicated her efforts to serving the people of Larimer County. Cheryl served as Chair of the Board from 1998 to 2001. Some of the additional boards and commissions Cheryl served on include: the Larimer Center for Mental Health, the Colorado State University's President's Community Relations Committee, and

the Larimer County Department of Human Services Children and Family Services Division. She was also chairman of the Colorado Counties, Inc. Land Use and Natural Resources committee, and the joint Colorado Municipal League Growth subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Cheryl Olson has ceaselessly dedicated her time and efforts to serving her country and the people of Colorado as a County Commissioner for Larimer County. I am honored to bring her hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service, Cheryl, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION'S 2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the gathering of the National Hispanic Contractors Association at their 2nd Annual Conference entitled "Framing the Future: Diversity Builds the American Dream".

The Conference will take place on September 23rd and 24th, 2004 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Broward County Convention Center located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. With more than 150,000 Hispanic contractors in our nation, the Association will host many of them during this conference.

One of the panel discussions will focus on safety in the workforce. The rate of workplace injuries for Hispanics is disproportionately high. Hispanic workers, who comprise 12 percent of the U.S. labor force, experienced 15 percent of the fatal occupational injuries in 2003. Eight hundred forty Hispanic workers died from workplace injuries in 2003. I commend the USHCA for discussing this important subject.

The U.S. Hispanic Contractors Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing the support necessary for the advancement, advocacy, and economic growth, and full participation of Hispanic-owned businesses in all areas of contracting and procurement contracts.

CONGRATULATING DR. MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ AS HE IS INSTALLED AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend, Dr. Miguel Angel Rodriguez, the distinguished former President of Costa Rica, who today will be formally installed as Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Combining a shared vision for the Americas, the OAS brings together a number of nations of the Western Hemisphere to strengthen co-

operation and common interests. It is the region's premier forum for multilateral dialogue and action. At the core of the OAS mission is the belief in, and commitment to, democracy. Since the end of the Cold War, the OAS member states have signified their cooperation by working to promote peace and human understanding; strengthen security; expand trade; and promote human rights.

A recognized world leader and economist, Dr. Rodriguez has served in many key leadership positions. Prior to assuming the Presidency of Costa Rica in 1998, he was President, and before that, Vice President of the Christian Democrat Organization of America. He was President of the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Costa Rica and a Congressman of the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Costa Rica. A professor at the Universidad Autonoma de Centro America, he has published extensively on the subjects of democracy; market and social welfare policy.

Dr. Rodriguez received a B.Sc. in Economics and Social Sciences and a BS in Law from the Universidad de Costa Rica. He also earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

I have had the honor of working with Dr. Rodriguez to resolve outstanding issues that would enable Costa Rica to participate in the Tropical Forest Conservation Act. I authored this legislation, which is designed to protect the world's most endangered tropical forests using market-oriented debt-for-nature mechanisms. I know him to be a thoughtful and fair person, and a friend of the United States.

I join my colleagues in congratulating Dr. Rodriguez on assuming the position of Secretary General. We look forward to working with him in his new position.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SANDY HUME

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Sandy Hume and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as an Adams County Commissioner. As a public official since 1983, Sandy is a dedicated public servant and leader in his community and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

A lifelong resident of Boulder, Colorado, Sandy attended Boulder High School and went on to earn both a bachelor's and masters degree from the University of Colorado. After a short period of serving with the Army, Sandy became a self-employed photographer. Sandy began his public service career when he was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1983, and reelected in 1985, and 1987. His strength as a legislator led to his 1989 election to the Colorado State Senate. Serving the people of Boulder County in District 13, Sandy has long been an advocate of education, efficient transportation, and management of our energy and natural resources. During his tenure in the House he served as a member of the Education and Transportation and Energy committees where he was able to work on higher education bills and regulating the

amount of hazardous waste that is transported through Boulder.

After leaving the General Assembly, Sandy continued his exemplary public service record by serving as a Boulder County commissioner from 1991-1994, and the Boulder County Treasurer from 1995-2002. Currently he is serving as the Boulder Public Trustee, a post that he was appointed to in 2003 by Colorado Governor Bill Owens. In his spare time, he serves on the Advisory Board of the Colorado Commission for Higher Education, and is an accomplished photographer.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Sandy Hume has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his country and the people of Colorado as an Adams County Commissioner. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service, Sandy, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES FOR 25 YEARS OF COMMITTED SERVICE TO GOD'S PEOPLE

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the Catholic Social Services (CSS) for 25 years of committed service to the people of Guam. For over two decades, the CSS has responded to the needs of our island community through housing, health care, nutritional and other support programs for the elderly and disadvantaged in our community. In doing so, it has fulfilled its mission to encourage the development of the spiritual, intellectual, economic, and social well-being of those in need while respecting the dignity of each individual.

Founded by Fr. David I.A. Quitugua with the assistance of Judge Ramon Diaz and the late Archbishop Felixberto C. Flores, the Catholic Social Services opened its doors on September 12, 1979 in Agaña, Guam. From its first programs, the residential Drug Treatment Center and the Migration and Refugee Office to the many programs they currently administer, the Catholic Social Services continues to expand to meet the growing needs of our community. Programs such as the In-Home Services Program have provided much needed respite and support services for caretakers of the elderly and to elderly individuals without caretakers. Other programs, including the Alee Shelters and Guma Sagrada Familia, have provided a safe haven for victims of abuse especially women, children, the elderly and adults with disabilities. The Guma San Jose shelters and the Liheng Transitional Housing Program provide shelter to homeless individuals and families as well as assistance in obtaining permanent housing. The Caridad programs provide much needed assistance to children and adults with special needs.

The accomplishments of the Catholic Social Services over the last 25 years would not have been possible without the work of dedicated staff and volunteers, past and present. I want to commend each of them for their commitment to serving the less fortunate in our community. I would also like to commend

the leadership of CSS over the years, Fr. David Quitugua, Sr. Anita, Mrs. Cerila M. Rapadas, and Sr. Callista Camacho, R.S.M. Together they have brought hope to those in need.

I want to recognize Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron and the Archdiocese of Agana for the continued support of the mission of the Catholic Social Services. Furthermore, I would also like to recognize the generosity of the donors and benefactors of the Catholic Social Services. Their contributions have made it possible for CSS to continue its work and I encourage their continued support.

I want to congratulate the Catholic Social Services on their 25th Anniversary. Although I cannot be with them as they celebrate the occasion, I want to thank them for their service to our people and wish them continued success. Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'os Ma'asel

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5025) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chairman, I voted in strong support of the Motion to Recommit sponsored by Representative DAVID OBEY and in reluctant support for final passage of H.R. 5025, the Transportation and Treasury Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005.

Politics and a deplorable abuse of the legislative process are holding critical transportation projects across this country hostage. This includes the T-REX project in my district—which has introduced light rail to metro Denver and expanded a vital corridor along I-25. Every federal highway and transit project in this country must be authorized to receive federal funds before the appropriators can release them. Unfortunately, the wheels have fallen off the authorization train this time around.

We in Congress are facing an incredible situation where a Republican-controlled House, a Republican-controlled Senate and a Republican-controlled White House cannot reach an agreement on funding levels for our nation's transportation system. This showdown occurs against a background of ever increasing traffic congestion, as our transportation needs continue to outstrip our will to address them.

As if there weren't enough to raise concern about the authorization process alone, the folly extended to the House's consideration of the transportation funding bill as well. My Republican colleagues from Colorado subjected the appropriations bill itself to numerous points of order that stripped the legislation of funding for transit projects, Amtrak, and even T-REX.

My hometown paper, the Rocky Mountain News, recently described the situation we face today, "Imagine a major transportation bill that pays for very few roads or transit programs."

Well, that's what we're stuck with. Do you know why my colleagues decided to strip this much-needed money out of the bill? Because the authorization bill hasn't passed. Well, whose fault is that?

So I support Mr. OBEY's efforts to restore the transit funding to the transportation bill before us here today. I'll vote for final passage, because I hope that all of this absurdity will be remedied in the conference report because, frankly, my constituents don't care about this political wrangling. They care about the transportation crunch across our country, they care about congestion in Denver and they care about real solutions. I will continue to fight against this political posturing and for the real solutions that will get traffic flowing again in my district and across this nation.

PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2028) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts inferior to the Supreme Court over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Pledge Protection Act of 2003, H.R. 2028. The operative language of H.R. 2028 is contained in a single provision—Section 2(a):

[n]o court created by an Act of Congress shall have any jurisdiction, and the Supreme Court shall have no appellate jurisdiction, to hear or decide any question pertaining to the interpretation of, or the validity under the Constitution of, the Pledge of Allegiance, as defined in section 4 of title 4, or its recitation.

Mr. Chairman, we have seen this kind of egregious legislation before in the context of closing federal court doors to claims related to the Defense of Marriage Act. This legislation violates the same principles as that did—supreme court and lower federal court jurisprudence; well-respected legal precedence; the doctrines of the "separation of powers;" the doctrine of "judicial review;" equal rights and equal protection; the U.S. Constitution; the intent of the original Framers; and others.

H.R. 2028 would preclude any federal judicial review of any constitutional challenge to the Pledge of Allegiance—whether it be in the lower federal courts or in the highest Court in the Land, the U.S. Supreme Court. Effectively, if passed, this extremely vague legislation will relegate all claimants to State courts to review any challenges to the Pledge. This possibility will lead to different constitutional constructions in each of the 50 states. If one of the purported goals of H.R. 2028 is to minimize the amount of cases brought to the federal courts and save the court administration's time, this bill fails miserably. H.R. 2028 "dumps" these claims onto the dockets of the State courts which will render different decisions across the board—clearly bad policy.

JUDICIAL REVIEW AND ARTICLE III

Article III of the U.S. Constitution vests "the Judicial Power of the United States . . . in

one supreme court." The laundry list of areas which the federal courts have the power to hear and decide under Section 2 of Article III, establishes the doctrine of the "separation of powers."

For over 50 years, the federal courts have played a central role in the interpretation and enforcement of civil rights laws. Bills such as H.R. 2028 and H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act—bills to prevent the courts from exercising their Article III functions only mask discrimination.

We cannot allow bad legislation such as this to pass in the House. In the 1970s, some members of Congress unsuccessfully sought to strip the courts of jurisdiction to hear desegregation efforts such as busing, which would have perpetuated racial inequality.

At the height of anti-immigration sentiments in 1996, Congress succeeded in enacting immigration laws that stripped federal courts of the ability to hear appeals by legal immigrants who sought to challenge the harsh deportation laws that were on the books. Some of these laws were so extreme that the Supreme Court ultimately weighed in and struck them down as unconstitutional. As Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, I recognize the importance of the Supreme Court's role in ensuring that fundamental fairness remains the hallmark of the American legal and judicial system.

Minority groups enjoy the freedoms that they now enjoy today because of the wisdom of the Supreme Court. By passing legislation such as H.R. 2028 and H.R. 3313, Congress will set a dangerous precedent that will leave many Americans vulnerable to discrimination and disparate treatment.

The denial of a federal forum for plaintiffs to vindicate their Constitutional rights would preclude a body specifically suited for the analysis of federal interests from doing what it has been created to do under the Constitution. State courts, which will be the "last shot" at relief for these plaintiffs, may lack the expertise and independent safeguards provided to federal judges under Article III.

H.R. 2028, as drafted, insulated the Pledge of Allegiance as set forth in section 4 of title 4 of the United States Code from constitutional challenge in the federal courts.

However, the statute and the Pledge are subject to change by future legislative bodies. This means that if some future Congress decides to insert some religiously offensive or discriminatory language in the pledge, the matter would be immune to constitutional challenge in the federal courts.

The Jackson-Lee amendment, which I will offer, provides for an exception to the bill's preclusion that involves allegations of coerced or mandatory recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, including coercion in violation of the First Amendment.

Closing the doors of the federal courthouse doors to claimants will amount to a coercion of individuals to recite the Pledge and its reference to God in violation of the holding in *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*. This case struck down mandatory recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

In *Barnette*, the Supreme Court struck down a West Virginia law that mandated schoolchildren to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Under the West Virginia law, religious minorities faced expulsion from school and could be subject to prosecution and fined, if convicted

of violating the statute's provisions. In striking down that statute, Justice Jackson wrote for the Court:

To believe in patriotism will not flourish if patriotic ceremonies are voluntary and spontaneous instead of a compulsory routine is to make an unflattering estimate of the appeal of our institutions to free minds . . . If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high, or petty can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.

This legislation would strip the parents of those children of the right to go to court and defend their children's religious liberty. If this legislation is passed, schools could expel children for acting according to the dictates of their faith and Congress will have slammed the courthouse door shut in their faces. When I was a child, I always wondered why, when the rest of the class recited the Pledge of Allegiance, she always sat quietly. Today, I understand that it was because she was of the 7th Day Adventist faith and therefore reciting the "under God" provision would force her to frustrate her religious faith. If H.R. 2028 were law back then, the school administrators could have forced her to say the pledge and she would have no recourse in the federal courts.

The Jackson-Lee Amendment protects religious minorities, Mr. Chairman.

Recently, a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit held that a Pennsylvania law requiring recitation of the Pledge, even when it provided a religious exception, violated the Constitution because it violated the free speech of the students.

In *Circle School v. Pappert*, the court found that:

It may be useful to note our belief that most citizens of the United States willingly recite the Pledge of Allegiance and proudly sing the national anthem. But the rights embodied in the Constitution, particularly the First Amendment, protect the minority—those persons who march to their own drummers. It is they who need the protection afforded by the Constitution and it is the responsibility of federal judges to ensure that protection.

Again, under H.R. 2028, such a coercive speech case could never reach the federal courts.

DUE PROCESS AND SEPARATION OF POWERS

Protecting fundamental due process of the law requires independent judicial forums capable of determining federal constitutional rights—with experience. H.R. 2028 will deprive the federal courts of the ability to hear cases involving fundamental free exercise and free speech rights of students, parents, religious affiliates, and many others. Congressional denial of a federal forum to plaintiffs in a specified class of cases would force these plaintiffs out of federal courts—which are specifically suited for the vindication of federal interests, and into state courts which may be inexperienced and hostile to federal claims.

The Pledge Protection Act threatens to destroy the U.S. Constitution, the independence of the federal judiciary, separation of powers, and individual rights and protections guaranteed by the Constitution. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to save this country from legal demise and defeat the base bill.

GREATER REGULATION OF RELIGION IN KAZAKHSTAN?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission I am concerned about Kazakhstan's draft law on combating extremist activity, as the legislation could violate Kazakhstan's OSCE commitments on religious freedom and damage the country's positive reputation on religious tolerance and liberty. In President Nursultan Nazarbaev's address to the parliament on September 1, he urged deputies to pass the bill while dismissing concerns about the further regulation of religion. Nevertheless, the text is problematic in several respects and would benefit from further refinement. Considering that Kazakhstan wishes to be the OSCE Chair-in-Office in 2009, I urge Kazakhstan to seek the advice of the OSCE Panel of Experts on Religious Freedom or Belief, as President Nazarbaev wisely did two years ago regarding a proposed draft law on religion.

Intended to combat terrorism, the draft law would criminalize membership in certain groups or the holding of certain beliefs, rather than combating actual criminal deeds. A critical portion of the law is also vague, as the text fails to define clearly the term "extremism." The omission is glaring and will very likely lead to its misapplication. In addition, the draft uses the word "religious" ten times and links religion with an ill-defined understanding of "extremism." In the context of an anti-terrorism law, such a connection gives rise to concern, as these types of statutes can easily be misused against unpopular religious communities. The draft law would strengthen state control over religious activity by giving the State Agency for Work with Religious Associations the ability to monitor groups. From its observations, the State Agency can recommend the banning of a group for "extremist activity," but again the text does not spell out what activities would qualify.

Another problematic provision included in the draft concerns the foreign classification of a group as "extremist," as the law will honor the classification by another country and ban their activity in Kazakhstan. This clause would in effect allow the long arm of a repressive government to outlaw a group in Kazakhstan, as well. I remember when a Moscow court labeled the Salvation Army as a "paramilitary" organization; under this draft bill, Kazakhstan could follow this erroneous assertion and ban this well-respected humanitarian organization.

Existing Kazakh law fully provides for the prosecution of criminal acts, so these new provisions are not only unnecessary but harmful. In fact, some articles of current law are too restrictive. For example, Article 375 of the Administrative Code, which requires the registration of religious groups, should be removed. I have received consistent reports since the promulgation of Article 375 of unregistered groups being penalized for legitimate activities and their facing civil and criminal sanctions. Considering the recurring misuse of civil regulations, I fear further abuse under the draft law.

I understand that President Nazarbaev is concerned about the spread of extremism in

his country, especially from "radical" Islamic groups. The President may be tempted to follow the actions of his neighbors, especially Uzbekistan, but I would advise him otherwise. The Uzbek Government has for years ruthlessly clamped down on pious Muslims suspected of being associated with Hizb ut-Tahrir. This reactionary and heavy-handed policy has proven counterproductive, antagonizing the devout Muslim population and leaving it receptive to other, radical voices. Instead of defeating terrorists, demanding legal requirements for religious practice and Uzbekistan's harsh responses have restricted the religious freedoms of the many peaceful Muslims and Christians wanting to practice their faith. Obviously, individuals involved in criminal activity in Kazakhstan should be punished. But, by banning entire groups, particularly independent mosques outside the control of the state-backed Muslim Spiritual Association, entire communities will be penalized. The result will be the inappropriate limiting of a fundamental freedom, while doing little to prevent criminal acts.

In closing, the Congress of World and Traditional Religions convened by President Nazarbaev himself was successful in bringing together Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu leaders to discuss tolerance and understanding. I fear that the draft law on extremism, if not amended, will sully Kazakhstan's reputation on religious tolerance by unduly limiting religious freedoms through the criminalization of certain memberships and beliefs as opposed to addressing real criminal activity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I was out of town on official business, and missed rollcall vote Nos. 457, 458, 459, and 460. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 457, "no" on rollcall 458, "no" on rollcall 459, and "no" on rollcall 460.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 23, 2004 I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall vote Nos. 466, 467, 468 469, 470, 471 and 472. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on 466, an amendment by Mr. Watt; "yea" on 467, passage of the Pledge Protection Act; "yea" on 468, the Adoption Tax Relief Guarantee Act; "yea" on 469; "yea" on 470; "yea" on 471; and "yea" on 4721, passage of the conference report to H.R. 1308, which I previously supported.